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un-funny AIDS remark overheard.

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Not one, but two gay cable
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Gay at Sundance
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 3 • 17 January 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

CA's civil unions bill shelved till 2003

by Matthew S. Bajko

After scrambling last week to ensure the passage of AB1338, California's civil union bill, out of the state Assembly, the author of the bill tabled it for this year. If passed, the bill would have granted to eligible same-sex couples all the same rights available now to married couples in California.

"We know that sometimes the most profound changes in our society have taken place over time. I know when I introduced this historic legislation that it would be a challenging, multi-year process for it to pass," said Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), in a statement issued Monday, January 14. "We scored a huge victory this year. We put civil unions on the map in California and began the dialogue. We opened many eyes to the need for full legal recognition of committed same-sex couples."



Paul Koretz

Conservative groups that had opposed the bill, arguing it violated the voters' intent in passing Proposition 22, also declared victory on Monday. In March 2000, 61 percent of California voters approved Proposition 22, which defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

"With AB1338, America is facing perhaps the most serious threat to marriage since the states foolishly embraced no-fault divorce in the 1960s. The bill would create a counterfeit marriage and overturn the will of the voters," said Family Research Council President Ken Connor. "For the sake of marriage as we know it, it's imperative that Californians remain vigilant to see to it that the will of their vote is not overturned by homosexual activists."

Koretz introduced the bill, the California Family Protection Act, last year and had to see it pass out of the Assembly by the end of January, otherwise it would be dead for this legislative session.

"AB1338 may have stalled, but the issue of civil unions is still very much alive in California. The battle may be over, but the war has only just begun," Koretz said. "Polling shows that a majority of Californians, while still supporting Proposition 22, support the concept of a system of rights and responsibilities parallel to marriage for same sex couples. Otherwise I wouldn't be pushing it so hard."

According to the last U.S. Census re-

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Noel and Knoller to be tried together, judge rules

by Ed Walsh



Sharon Smith, right, partner of Diane Whipple, congratulates prosecutor Jim Hammer after the judge's ruling, as Sarah Miller, who worked with Whipple, looks on.

Court denies injunction Full speed ahead for SFAF bike ride

by Katie Szymanski

Fence-sitters rejoice: a Southern California judge has spoken, and the San Francisco community-based bike ride for AIDS services will go on as planned in mid-May, benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffee on Monday, January 14 ruled that AIDS/LifeCycle, the new event planned by SFAF and the L.A. Center, was not in violation of contractual agreements with Pallotta Teamworks, producers of the controversial California AIDS Ride. Pallotta had sued the organizations, seeking a preliminary injunction to stop their cycling benefit as well as a media gag order to keep their representatives from speaking about their financial disputes with Pallotta.

Judge Yaffee ruled swiftly, and in clear language advised that an appeal would not likely get far. Pallotta President Steve Bennett later told reporters that the for-profit event producers would not challenge the decision.

"It's good that this matter is finally resolved," said a curious statement from Pallotta Teamworks, the initiators of the lawsuit, "and we are eager to turn our full attention to making California AIDS Ride 9 a great success."

AIDS Ride, for the first time since its in-

ception in 1994, will continue without SFAF and the L.A. Center, instead benefiting AIDS Project Los Angeles and reportedly a handful of strategically chosen charities in the Bay Area but outside of San Francisco.

SFAF and the L.A. Center, also for the first time, will launch AIDS/LifeCycle without any Pallotta ties, in a move they say will ensure that more money goes directly to people with AIDS. The ride is set for May 13-19; it will start in San Francisco and end in Los Angeles.

The disagreements between Pallotta and the organizations arose from last year's California AIDS Ride, in which only 50 cents of every dollar raised went to SFAF and the center, the benefiting charities of the AIDS Ride from 1994 through 2001.

"This was not some silly internal squabble," SFAF's Gustavo Suárez told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We're talking about a difference of \$1 million that should have gone to direct HIV services."

The dollar discrepancies prompted a close investigation of all expenses, which reportedly revealed many improprieties. The over-budget, unapproved invoices from Pallotta included, according to Suárez, "a number of charges and expenses that are in no way related to any of their events and yet are billed out to all of their events."

Other Pallotta events include the Washington, D.C. and Northeast AIDS Rides, and

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If recent hearings are any indication, the case against the keepers of the dogs involved in the fatal mauling of Diane Whipple may well be punctuated with even more bizarre twists, turns, and rhetorical fireworks when it goes to trial next week in Los Angeles, just two days before the one-year anniversary of Whipple's death.

This week the prosecution scored a major victory when a judge ruled that Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller must be tried together. Before issuing his decision on Tuesday, January 15, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren said that he considered it "inappropriate" that lawyers for the attorney couple filed their motion for separate trials on January 3, just three weeks before the case was scheduled to go to trial.

"This I think is a classic case for joint trial," Warren said. "You have common defendants, common crimes, you have common events, the same victim, the court finds that although there arguably may be some prejudice to one defendant or the other regarding a particular piece of evidence, it is very small."

Warren also ruled on which evidence and testimony could be admissible during trial. He handed the prosecution a partial victory in the most hotly contested matter: alleged sexual contact between the couple and their two dogs, Bane and Hera, as well as alleged "intimacy" between the couple and their adopted son, Pelican Bay prison inmate, Paul "Cornfed" Schneider.

Warren said that he would allow in evidence of sexual contact between the couple and their dogs and other persons, but only if it can be "tied to the actions of the dogs" at the time of the attack on Whipple. Warren cautioned that any attempt by the prosecution to introduce evidence of sexual conduct between the dogs and Noel and Knoller would have to be first "very carefully scrutinized" in a closed court session.

The implication of bestiality was made by the lead prosecutor on the case, Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer. He said that

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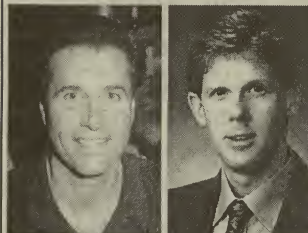
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Cotillion to crown 'Miss Transgender SF'

by Katie Szymanski

So you didn't have a Southern female upbringing. But it's never too late to indulge in the many customs of proper ladyhood, as the annual Transgender San Francisco Cotillion has demonstrated for many years.

Saturday, January 26 has officially been declared "Transgender Day" by the Board of Supervisors, and this day, uncoincidentally, marks the 19th Miss Transgender San Francisco Pageant as presented by the cotillion. This year's cotillion is entitled, "An Evening With Friends" and will showcase nine beautiful contestants competing for the distinguished title of "Miss Transgender San Francisco 2002." New girls attending the cotillion for the first time will also be introduced as debutantes.

Over 500 guests are expected to attend the event, held at the San Francisco Design Center Galleria, 101 Henry Adams Street. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and Supervisor Mark Leno will present a certificate of honor to TGSF for its work on behalf of the community. Featured entertainers include the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Dance Company, and the International Gay Rodeo Choir. Pageant judges are expected to include Miss GAPA 2001, "Mama" Sandy Reinhardt, Theresa Sparks, Jamison Green, Empress Chablis, Cecilia Chung, Denea Doyle, and Ann Grogan. Emcees are Lenny Broberg and Tita Aida.

"This is the day when the 'T' in 'GLBT' gets to shine," said cotillion director Rachael Light, a pre-

vious "Miss Congeniality" of the pageant. "It's a major transgender event, and our signature event for the year."

Tickets to cotillion range from \$40-\$60 for floor seating (going fast), and \$30 for the balcony. Tickets are available at Marlena's bar, 488 Hayes Street, and also at the door. All proceeds benefit TGSF ed-

ucational and outreach programs, as well as three local nonprofits: Project Open Hand, the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Doors open at 6 p.m. next Saturday and the show starts at 7:30. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.tgsf.org or call (408) 219-1250. ▼

GLBT lawyers and allies needed for legal committees

by Matthew S. Bajko

As cases involving legal issues of concern to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community increase, the work of lawyers outside the courthouse becomes increasingly important. Policies affecting insurance, worker's compensation, and the appeals process can have just as much impact on cases as legislation.

To further improve the gay community's rights, GLBT lawyers, as well as interested members of the public, are needed to serve on several committees established by the Board of Governors of the State Bar. These committees can influence policies and procedures that directly impact legal issues of interest to the GLBT community.

"It is important we have people on committees dealing with insurance, business, employment, and worker's comp as well as judicial review and appellate work so that we can make sure our grow-

ing body of rights will be protected and expanded," said San Rafael resident Bob Doyle, who specializes in employment law and worker's compensation.

As co-chair of the State Bar's Committee on Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Discrimination, Doyle addresses concerns and issues raised by not only GLBT lawyers, but also clients. His committee also helps produce education programs for state bar conventions on GLBT-related issues.

"The next step in pursuing domestic partner benefits and rights is essentially getting more gays and lesbians on these committees so we can start influencing how the Bar sets rules and pushes legislation," said Doyle, whose committee has four openings.

Those interested in applying for the committee vacancies do not need to be lawyers; they only have to have an interest in the issue the committee addresses.

To apply, or for more information, call (415) 538-2316. Applications are due February 2. ▼



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'Party and Play' HIV study shows high numbers of drug use

by Matthew S. Bajko

According to a new study that looked at HIV risk in a late-night population in San Francisco, a large number of gay and bisexual men are using drugs and engaging in unsafe sex.

The findings suggest that not only is late-night HIV outreach needed to reach this high-risk population, but that those interventions should include substance use harm reduction messages. Also, the research suggests late-night HIV testing in the field could be useful in reaching those men who are unaware of their HIV positive status.

"The concern is this might be a population that needs intervention. No one has really studied this population to see who is at risk," said Mike Pendo, an HIV researcher in the Department of Public Health AIDS Office.

Pendo presented preliminary results of the "Party and Play" study to the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council last Thursday, January 10. The study looked at the sexual behaviors and drug use of 391 individuals, 356 men who have sex with men and 35 male-to-female transgenders.

Researchers talked to men found between the hours of midnight to 4 a.m. in streets and cruising areas, bars and dance clubs, and public sex environments in the Castro, Mission, Polk, and South of Market neighborhoods. The study consisted of a 45-minute interview, optional testing for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/STD risk reduction counseling and referrals to needed services, and a follow-up two weeks later for test results.

Over a third of the men reported injecting drugs within the past three months. And 84 percent said they had used a non-injected drug within the same time period.

"If you are doing late-night outreach, you are going to encounter a range of drugs," said Pendo.

The study found that 84 percent had used marijuana, 64 percent had used speed, 38 percent used poppers, and 36 percent used ecstasy. In addition, 32 percent had used crack, 28 percent downers, 27 percent cocaine, and 18 percent GHB.

The least used drugs included LSD, mushrooms, and ketamine, with only 17 percent saying they had used them. Only 14 percent

said they had used Viagra and 8 percent reported using heroin.

Of those studied, 69 percent were HIV-negative, 24 percent were known positives and 7 percent tested HIV-positive for the first time.

As for sexual behavior, the study found that out of 192 men who were bottoms during sex, 67 percent said they did not use condoms. Out of 247 men who were tops, 64 percent said they had not used condoms. A majority of men also said they had unprotected anal sex with a partner of unknown HIV status: 84 out of 138 tops and 65 out of 107 bottoms.

While 82 percent of the participants said they had seen condoms when they were at a club or bar, only 56 percent of those men had taken condoms.

"Interventions should target both HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals and focus on disclosure and communication," Pendo told the HPPC members.

The results of the study provide statistical data to what many in the gay community already know: drug use is rampant, especially among the late-night party crowd.

"It is a question of having the
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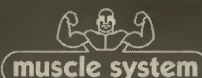
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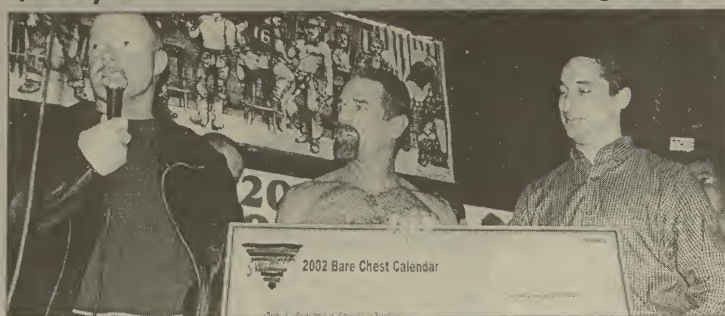
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AIDS Emergency Fund board President Ralph Petersen, left, thanks the crowd at the Powerhouse last Thursday, January 10, and Positive Resource Center chair Mark Murphy, right, looks on after Bare Chest Committee chair David Kloss, center, presented a check totaling \$30,500 from sales of the 2001 SOMA Bare Chest Calendar. The money was split evenly between the two AIDS service organizations.

Oakland cannabis club challenges feds again

by Liz Highleyman

The Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative reopened its legal case against the federal government last week, asking that the injunction be lifted that bars the organization from providing medical marijuana.

Last May, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled against the OCBC, saying that cannabis had no recognized medical uses, and that medical necessity could not be used by a providers' organization as a defense against prosecution under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

The May ruling overturned a previous 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that the OCBC could claim exemption from federal drug laws because the club's members have a medical need for marijuana. Since the spring rul-

ing, the OCBC has remained open but has not sold cannabis.

In last week's filing, the OCBC focuses on three constitutional issues that the Supreme Court did not address last May. According to OCBC attorney Robert Raich, "The Supreme Court issued a very narrow ruling. We are taking the invitation to open up other issues."

In issuing that ruling, Justice Clarence Thomas acknowledged that constitutional issues remained unanswered, including regulation of intrastate commerce (the Constitution only gives the federal government jurisdiction over commerce between states) and the right of states to determine their own laws. California and seven other states currently have laws permitting the medical use of marijuana. The OCBC brief also claims that the right to relief from pain is implied by the Fifth

and Ninth amendments. In May, Raich said he was "surprised that the Supreme Court chose completely to sidestep the other issues we raised in the case."

OCBC lawyers hope that the new case will also reach the high court. Department of Justice attorneys, who will argue the federal case, declined to comment on the recent filing. However, under newly appointed drug czar Asa Hutchinson, the federal government appears to be cracking down on California providers of medical cannabis.

Last September, agents from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration seized patient records and marijuana plants from Dr. Mollie Fry, an Auburn-area physician who recommends medical marijuana, followed a month later by a raid on the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center in West Hollywood. ▼

Panel addresses Human Rights Commission on gender issues

by Katie Szymanski

The public can expect the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to start addressing more complex issues related to gender soon.

At the commission's LGBT Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 15, a panel of guest speakers – including Shannon Minter, staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights; health worker and former Pride president Cecilia Chung; and Shawna Virago, survivor advocate for Community United Against Violence – discussed the many needs and nuances of the ever-expanding transgender community.

The fight for transgender rights is important to the lesbian and gay struggle for marriage, noted Minter, because it challenges the very concept of what is morally correct for the sexes. Homophobic court decisions that do not recognize transgenders beyond their birth sex, for instance, often result in same-sex couples being allowed to marry, as when a Texas lesbian couple, one of

whom was a male-to-female transsexual, used a ruling in their favor. Likewise, when state courts honor a transgender's new gender identity, that person can then enter into a male-female marriage, much to the dismay of right-wing zealots.

"It's pretty humorous in a way," remarked Minter. "The point is it's stupid to allow homophobia to guide these court decisions because it will always result in what some people will see as a same-sex marriage."

The more that the notion of a God-given gender is thrown to the wind, the more gender rights will benefit lesbians and gays, speakers said.

Also noteworthy, said Virago, is the rising population of people who consider themselves "genderqueer," whether in presentation or identity. These folks may or may not opt for surgery or hormones, but their gender-variant status can present them with more struggles than a transgender recognized as one sex or the other.

On the healthcare front, said Chung, transgenders face many barriers, whether in trying to re-

ceive a prostate exam as a female, or in attempting to access the city's new transgender health benefits if they are city workers.

"The referral process is vague," said Chung. "And a lot of qualified surgeons don't take HMOs."

Larry Brinkin, coordinator of the Human Rights Commission's LGBT department, vowed to follow up on implementing the city's health benefits, and also took to heart Virago's suggestion that San Francisco place a number of unisex bathrooms in public places. Brinkin also said that the commission would examine new ways to honor the struggles faced by intersex people – those born with ambiguous genitalia and often assigned a gender at birth by a doctor – as they have mistakenly been lumped under a transgender umbrella despite their unique concerns.

"We're going to be taking a look at our gender guidelines," said Brinkin. While the commission's guidelines for gender definitions and equality are thorough, and often used by other agencies in implementing policy, "we recognize that there is room for improvement." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Some of Harry Britt's endorsements questioned

by Joe Dignan

Did you endorse Harry Britt for California Assembly? Are you sure you didn't? Best go check the list on his Web site (www.harrybritt.com). Because if you're like quite a few other people, you might be listed as an endorser without even knowing it. Even if you're backing a legal candidate.

At least six individuals, including San Francisco Assessor Doris Ward and Pat Murphy, publisher of the online San Francisco Sentinel, have told the *Bay Area Reporter* that they ended up on Britt's endorsement list without their permission. Two are supporters of Britt's rival in the contest, Supervisor Mark Leno. Four are uncommitted in the race. Some are quite angry.

"This corner tends toward thinking Britt clueless," mused Murphy on his publication's Web



Harry Britt

site. Others are more polite.

"Today I'm not endorsing anybody," said Ward. Britt claimed Ward's endorsement in an October press release that the campaign re-issued in November. "I don't know what happened," said

Ward. "We've been good friends and allies for a long time. We were on the [San Francisco] board [of supervisors] together. We fought for LGBT and progressive interests. I have not taken a position on this race because I've been too busy with my own."

Bruce Cain, a political science professor at the University of California, Berkeley, is a well-known authority on politics and political ethics. He said, "Endorsement means that you've given permission to allow your name to be put on campaign material or in some public place as supporting a given candidate."

Candidates work hard to get the endorsement of prominent individuals and institutions because voters often rely on the judgment of people they respect when making their own choice of a candidate.

Of the six individuals listed as Britt endorsers, four report having had conversations with Britt, but

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Britt's comment on 'young guys spread disease' stuns politicians

by Cynthia Laird and Joe Dignan

An off-hand remark by gay Assembly candidate Harry Britt just before a political function last Saturday, January 12 shocked rival gay candidate Supervisor Mark Leno, who was reeling from Britt's alleged comment to him that "you young guys spread disease."

The comment, apparently referring to the AIDS epidemic, surprised other witnesses who heard it, including former Police Chief and ex-Supervisor Richard Hongisto, who is currently running for city assessor.

According to Leno, what started out as a cordial handshake turned ugly when Hongisto approached the rival candidates, who were at the San Francisco Public Library to attend a meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. Britt and Leno are running in the Democratic primary to replace Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) in San Francisco's 13th Assembly District.

"I saw Harry and greeted him," Leno said, adding that at that moment, Hongisto approached the men. Britt was talking to someone else.

"He [Hongisto] said that he

wanted to see how we were getting along," Leno said. "I said, 'Well, I wanted to give Harry a kiss but he wouldn't let me,' and Harry said, 'That's right, you young guys spread disease.'"

Leno, 50, whose partner died from hepatitis and HIV complications several years ago, said he was shocked.

"I was confounded and offended," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that Britt had not offered an apology.

Hongisto told the *B.A.R.* that he, too, heard Britt's comment and was surprised.

"I was on the Board of Supervisors for 10 years. I have been very friendly with both of them for years. I contribute to both of them. In knowing Harry as long as I have, I have noticed that he has a caustic sense of humor," Hongisto said. "Harry has a sense of humor that wasn't just exactly like everybody else's."

Beverly Wagstaff, a campaign volunteer for Leno, also overheard Britt's comment. "I was just stunned," Wagstaff told the *B.A.R.* "I really couldn't take it in. I didn't know where it came from. I'm a volunteer and this is all pretty big stuff to me. That's what one of our enemies would say."

Britt, 63, did not return phone calls seeking comment for this story. His campaign manager,

Robert Haaland, declined to say whether Britt would apologize for or explain his comment. Haaland did say that Britt "would never, never make a joke" about AIDS, before hanging up.

A brief statement issued by Britt's campaign did not specifically address the comment in question. "The unplanned and friendly chat between Mark and me last Saturday about kissing had nothing to do with HIV and he knows that," Britt stated.

Hongisto said he feels badly about what transpired between Britt and Leno.

"I thought it was more of an attempt to make a repartee," Hongisto said. "I guess Harry did not know how to respond. I almost feel like I started it."

"I thought that Harry meant it as a joke. I guess the point is that it's really hard to joke about things like that because we've all lost a lot of friends. I lost my wife not so long ago. I know how it feels."

Migden, who created a stir in the LGBT community last year when she announced her endorsement of Britt, her mentor, over Leno, her protégé, was not at the function and had no comment on Britt's alleged statement. Migden has championed numerous bills dealing with HIV/AIDS issues during her tenure in the Assembly. ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 32, Number 3
17 January 2002PUBLISHER
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OPEN FORUM

It's not funny

Joking about AIDS is not funny – and former supervisor and current Assembly candidate Harry Britt learned that the hard way this week. Our phone lines have been buzzing with accounts of what happened at the San Francisco Public Library last Saturday when Britt allegedly told rival candidate Mark Leno that “you young guys spread disease.” While Britt’s comment was apparently meant as some sort of humorous come-back (see story, page 5), Leno isn’t laughing and neither are we.

When a politician is caught saying something he shouldn’t, the best course of action, in our view, is to own up to the mistake and move on. Had Britt called Leno afterwards and offered an apology, this story likely wouldn’t “have legs.” But Britt did not call Leno and has refused to talk to us; in a statement released Tuesday, he seems to blame us for the incident. That’s right, the media made it up. We’ll probably hear from Britt’s supporters that it was all some vast conspiracy involving this newspaper or Leno’s campaign; as if someone planted a computer chip in Britt’s brain that made him utter the unfortunate and definitely un-funny remark. Sorry, Harry, this was your doing, not ours.

Between Britt’s comment, which was overheard by at least two people, including former Supervisor Richard Hongisto (a candidate this time around for assessor), and the revelation that his campaign falsely listed people as endorsers on its Web site, it hasn’t been a very good week for Britt, who is battling for the 13th District Assembly seat currently held by Assemblywoman Carole Migden, herself a Britt supporter. After we called the campaign, Britt’s Web site was suddenly updated, except that workers neglected to change the date, making it seem as though the site was last updated October 15 and, therefore, we must be wrong in reporting that it listed people as endorsers who told us they either supported another candidate or are remaining neutral in this race. Sorry again, Harry, we have a printout

of the old list as it appeared on the Web site last week with the names of some people who say they did not endorse you.

The above examples seem to show a campaign in disarray and desperate for support. And it makes us wonder how Britt would represent the 13th District should he somehow manage to win a contested race that not only includes himself and Leno, but two other candidates as well. We have enough problems with Republicans and conservative Democrats in the Legislature, we don’t need so-called progressives like Britt making crude remarks about an epidemic that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people.

What Britt’s supporters fail to compre-

hend in their attempt to parse words and shift blame away from their candidate is that had some Republican candidate made a comment like Britt’s, they would be demanding an apology. And in fact, spurning the gay community has damaged other candidates in the past. The gay community locally is a powerful force, and we don’t need retired politicians running for office turning back the clock with their remarks, off-hand or otherwise.

If Britt wants to brush up on his humor, perhaps he should take lessons from Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. At least Ammiano, a sometime stand-up comic, is never at a loss for a one-liner, and his aren’t offensive to the community. ▼



Editorial

“IT WILL BE ALL ABOUT CONTENT...IF THE CONTENT IS SMART, THE CHANNEL WILL HAVE A REAL SHOT.” JOAN GARRY, EX-DIRECTOR, GLAAD

PROPOSED “GAY TV” PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

6:00 MORNING PRAYER “A Bad Hair Day”	6:00 CIRCUIT DANCE PARTY
7:00 GAY TODAY SHOW	6:30 SLAPFIGHT! Boy George vs. Sir Elton John
8:00 GAY MORNING AMERICA	7:00 ROUND TABLE FORUM
9:00 THE MARTHA STEWART HOUR OF POWER	7:30 “WHO WANTS TO ENTER INTO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP WITH A GAY MILLIONAIRE?”
Topic: “What does it matter? You’ll do anything I say.”	8:00 THE CHER/TAMMY FAYE BAKKER COMEDY HOUR
10:00 U-HAUL SHOWCASE	9:00 WOMEN’S MUD WRESTLING: Sandra Bernhard vs. Lea Delaria
10:30 GAYS OF OUR LIVES	9:30 LESBIAN LIFETIME MOVIE: “My Lesbian Wedding” starring Meredith Baxter & Melissa Gilbert
11:00 THE BUTCH AND THE BEAUTIFUL	10:00 DOCUMENTARY: “Behind the Smoulder: Male Models Exposed”
11:30 THE HUNG AND THE BREATHLESS	12:00 GAY THREE-WAY BLIND DATE
12:00 GAY WHEEL OF FORTUNE	1:00 THE DAILY SHOWING “Mommie Dearest”
1:00 THE GAY DATING GAME	
1:30 THE GAY NEWLYWED GAME	
2:00 GAY DIVORCE COURT	
2:30 CLASSIC XENA	
3:30 SOME SLEAZY AFTERNOON TALK SHOW INVOLVING GAY PEOPLE	

Time to speak out about HIV

by Gregory Rowe

A very strange thing happened to me during the holiday vacation. I spent two weeks visiting my sweet but oh-so-middle-American family. During my stay we spoke openly and frankly about my HIV-positive status, about its recent impact on my work, and about the impact it has had on my relationship with my HIV-negative partner. The strangeness of this phenomenon does not lie in the fact that my family and I talk about these issues. No, the strangeness of this occurrence lies in my realization that this frank openness simply doesn’t happen among my gay friends in San Francisco.

It is sad to me that this huge part of the gay reality is only talked about in very limited ways. For many people HIV is something you raise money for when you go to a circuit party or take part in a marathon. Some of my younger friends have told me they literally know no one who is HIV-positive, both a good indication of our HIV prevention efforts over the years and a reality that has had unforeseen negative effects.

This saddens me for two reasons. The first is that the gay community has already undergone enough animosity from the outside without creating more within it. Yet this is exactly what happens toward “less desirable” HIV-positive men. Many who I know have begun to internalize the rejection they feel from the gay community and turned it into low self-esteem. Low self-esteem has been commonly recognized as a co-factor for taking unhealthy decisions and risks. The second reason this is sad to me is that the gay community as a whole is missing out on something rich and powerful: a painful part of our history that’s not being told.

As I thought about this, it struck me that the model we, people in San Francisco surviving with HIV, have settled for is one that

closely resembles the Al-Anon/A.A. model. We meet in organized groups (at AHP, Positive Resources, Stop AIDS, etc.) or informally (coffee shops, dinner parties) where we feel safe enough to talk about our life with HIV/AIDS then we go about our lives not talking about it except with one or two friends. At the risk of offending 12-steppers, I can’t help but find this schema tinted with shame.

I propose that, rather than the 12-step model, we begin to adopt the model of the transgender community: loud, proud, politically strategic, and not afraid to make people slightly uncomfortable.

So to my many fellow gay community members who are HIV-negative I have this to say: we people living with HIV are to be recognized, thanked, and appreciated for what we endure. The way we demanded to be treated by the medical and social establishment has brought about unforeseen progress in many realms of human rights, gay rights, medical acumen, and social policy. We continue to be the guinea pigs of modern medicine, breaking ground by testing new drugs in the hopes of staying alive, but also allowing breakthroughs in many other fields of science that benefit the greater community. Yet, with the exception of the institutionalized awards ceremonies, these endeavors go mostly unsung.

Dr. Tom Coates, director of UCSF’s Center for AIDS Prevention Studies said in an interview I conducted with him for Gay.com that in essence the community doesn’t feel like HIV prevention belongs to it. He believes that gay people in SF perceive the various HIV efforts as coming from outside of the community, acting upon it rather than being a part of it. He proposes that a new discussion must begin in the greater community in order for us to own HIV once again.

Some of the benefits of breaking down the silence and creating a coalition of people surviving HIV and AIDS might include:

- Giving HIV-negative people a less romanticized view of what it means to live with HIV today and therefore slow down new infection rates.

- Providing leadership and non-judgmental mentoring for newly infected people who in many cases feel very isolated and judged.

- Creating a more widespread discussion and skills sharing on how to be less medically dependent, making the road less scary for those of us who choose not to take mainstream drugs.

- Going into developing countries (or even less developed parts of America) to train people in healthy survival skills: nutrition, self-care, and exercise.

- Creating spaces for touch and intimacy in which appearances are not the central criteria.

In the meantime, however, the state of California has made a monumental shift in its public HIV policy by deciding to apply a whopping 25 percent of its annual budget to directly work with people with HIV. I personally want to have a say in those actions in the hopes they will focus on building self-esteem, breaking down isolation, turning our priceless experience into something constructive for ourselves and for the greater community. I personally see a clear relationship between the onset of new infections and the manhole cover of silence the gay community has placed over this issue.

So while it would be more comfortable for us to wait, the time to act is now. To subvert an old AACT UP phrase: Words=Life.

If you are interested in creating a discussion around this question please send an e-mail to thrivinginsf@yahoo.com. Absolute anonymity will be respected. ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Providing leadership

The good news is the verve of Supervisor Gavin Newsom. He recently proposed a bold, balanced, and thorough program to deal with homelessness in the city. It would provide better care for those in need of care and more control for those out of control. If it passes, it will help alleviate the mess in the Castro and other areas.

The bad news is the foot-dragging of Tom Ammianno, president of the Board of Supervisors. Several years ago, when residents of the Haight sought to outlaw public drinking in the Panhandle, in order to control public drunks there, Ammianno called the effort an attack on the homeless. More recently, when people throughout the city clamored for cleaner streets, he tried to get the city to go slower in cleaning up messes created by the homeless. Most recent of all, when Newsom presented his new program, Ammianno scoffed, saying it takes more than one supervisor to solve the problem. Yet he himself has never come up with such a comprehensive plan.

Newsom has set an example that Ammianno would do well to heed. It's called providing leadership.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Critical of Kramer

It is truly unfortunate that being HIV-positive has any bearing at all upon eligibility for organ transplants [*"Larry Kramer doing well after transplant," January 3*]. It is ironic that misguided activists like Larry Kramer are at the root of such discrimination by propagating the falsehood that HIV causes AIDS. He chose to ignore the fact that HIV tests themselves are non-specific and labeled with disclaimers regarding HIV diagnosis.

Why would anyone in their right mind take toxic AZT and other liver destroying drugs based upon such spurious (albeit lucrative for some) medical opinion?

As for his other mistaken diagnosis, the misreport of his demise, how could they tell?

Jerry McPherson
Oakland, California

Balanced outlook needed

I enjoyed Paula Martinac's column "Fanatics among us" in the December 20 *B.A.R.* It was fair, sensible, and exuded a certain earned righteousness; a quality seriously lacking in today's neon gay politics. Mere volume doesn't equal validity. Serious, lasting change comes from persuasion, not coercion.

Single issue politics is inherently divisive, a balanced outlook can conquer any hatred.

Peter R. Cross
San Francisco

Outlandish story

The January 10 entitled "Sticker shock" is the most ridiculous and outlandish thing I've read in Bay Area newspapers in the last decade.

Let's see if I understood the situation correctly: Local lesbian Ms. Wallace takes her 17-year-old Honda to a San Francisco repair shop. She's advised by the shop that with the car's multitude of problems it's not worth fixing but despite their advice and the advice of her lover, decides to repair it anyway at a cost of over \$2,000 because of her emotional attachment to the vehicle.

She then tells the shop to keep the vehicle "... as long as necessary to ensure a thorough job ..." which turns out to be three weeks. During this time she makes no complaint and even drops by the shop with doughnuts. She feels "helpless" and "intimidated" but still "... felt as though it was best to be pleasant and hope that they do the work properly." Eventually, despite being told that it needed more testing, she arranges to pick up the car on New Year's Eve.

At this point, however, she shows up at the shop angry, with two male friends for backup who claim to be her attorneys. (Is this asking for a problem, or what?) A stink is raised because the car has been driven 118 miles in three weeks of testing its road worthiness. She then discovers that the rainbow sticker on the back window is covered by electrical tape and throws a hissy-fit, when the tape is removed and the sticker gets torn. And this is her only major complaint about the whole affair. Mind you, she has no problems with the cost of the repair nor is there any allegation that it was done incorrectly.

And on this basis Wallace has filed complaints with the Better Business Bureau, the AAA, the Bureau of Automotive Repair of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, and last but not least, the city's Human Rights Commission.

This isn't the only complaint against the shop. It turns out that the shop, after September 11, "hung some sort of Osama bin Laden poster that people thought was racially insensitive." I'm sure no one else in the country did something like that.

Geez, people, get a grip. This "story" isn't news - it's a huge steaming pile of BS. Learn the difference.

As far as I'm concerned, any garage that'll try to convince you that your car isn't worth putting money into deserves nothing but kudos all around. Hell, on that basis alone, I'll take my car to Ted & Al's Service Center for future repairs. An honest mechanic - what a concept.

If anything, manager Freed deserves a medal for his honesty, almost as much as Ms. Wallace and the *B.A.R.* deserve a swift kick in the derrière for making a big deal out of this. There's absolutely nothing in your article to suggest that Wallace's status as a lesbian had any bearing on the situation whatsoever - except in her imagination. If it'll make Ms. Wallace feel any less "mistreated" I'll happily buy her a rainbow sticker.

Mike Conner
San Francisco

History needed

I just received the January 3 issue of the *B.A.R.*, and am prompted by Mark Mardon's article ("Our town") to respond to Winston Leyland's *Out in the Castro*. To say the least, it came as very much a surprise that I first heard of Leyland's project when a few weeks ago I discovered *Out in the Castro* among the new releases in a Provincetown bookstore.

I am, of course, glad to see such a substantial contribution appear documenting the history of the Castro. And, the book is, as always, of the notable caliber Winston Leyland has demonstrated over the decades in his commitment to preserving and promoting the best of our community, and (dare I say it?) what is now our radical "old guard."

Leyland's project and the event Mark Mardon covered in his article also raise the touchy issue of who gets to be the "official" keepers of our collective memory. I am perplexed, as a historian and as a participant, by the absence of several key Castro dynamics - there is no interview with any of the founding members

of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, with the quintessentially 1980s 12-step recovery community (gay AA in the Castro was often hailed, mock-seriously as "the largest private social club in the Castro"), or the bear community. The Castro was the crucible which gave birth to today's self-identifying bear community and holds the undisputed position of being "Bear mecca."

No single historical compilation is likely to be complete, I readily grant. On a personal level, as someone who was an integral part of the above dynamics, among others, I am uncomfortable with how easily and unthinkingly individuals and whole parts of a community can be banished to oblivion.

I lived in the Castro from 1979 to 1993. (I left, with great reluctance when, after ending up on SSI and expecting to die from AIDS, I was offered a full-time position in the Boston area.) During those years I was involved in many levels with the Castro community, including being a founding member and past board co-chair of the SFBAGLHS (now GLHSNC); was intensely involved in the recovery community (a vital part of our story), and was present from the inception of the bear phenomenon, and have been chronicling bear history since 1990. (I edited *The Bear Book* and *The Bear Book II*, and am editing *The Bear Book III* now.)

I started work on a bottom-up history of the Castro in the mid-1990s, which has languished since mid-execution. I have accumulated a great deal of materials, numerous interviews, and had initiated a collaboration with Dan Nicoletta when I was actively researching in San Francisco in the latter 1990s. Peter Stein interviewed me as a former Castro resident when he was working on his video documentary on the Castro. And, I make a cameo appearance in it as a tourist, having been "planted" by Trevor Hailey, one of my interviewees.

When the means to finance myself or to establish free, in-exchange local accommodation ran out - and after a long and unfruitful search for an Bay Area funding sources for my project - I lost a first-rights publishing contract with a major press, and I relegated the project to a back burner.

I would like to conclude with an open request - that anyone interested in financial, material, or otherwise supporting the addition to our common history, which my at present stalled work would represent, to get in touch with me at either curator@bearhistory.com or lwright@mountida.edu.

Les Wright
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

[Editor's note: Willie Walker, a founder of the historical society, contributed to the "Walking Tour" piece in the anthology, which does make note of the 12-step programs, Bear culture, and other aspects of the community.]

Memo to the president

Mr. President: Please stop eating pretzels. America cannot accept Dick Cheney being promoted!

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Ron Howard did us a favor

by Paula Martinac

When Matt Drudge recently reported that the film *A Beautiful Mind* left out the gay aspects of its subject's life, some in the lesbian and gay community cried foul. Representatives of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, our sometimes overzealous media watchdog group, found the omission "alarming" and claimed that it "cheats the audience." But in straightening out the complicated character of John Nash, a Nobel Prize-winning mathematician, it's possible that director Ron Howard inadvertently did us a favor.

Like others, I was initially angered by the revelation that the book on which *A Beautiful Mind* was based contained many references to Nash's bisexuality — none of which made it into the movie version. Once again, queer history was being erased. It seemed that we'd returned to the bad old days of Hollywood, with movies like the 1948 *Night and Day*, in which composer Cole Porter's marital problems stemmed from some mysterious, unnamed artistic angst, not from being gay.

In defense of *A Beautiful Mind*, most screenplays (and novels, for that matter) based on real events and real people play fast and furious with the facts. They have to, for the sake of art. Famous lives don't always translate well to the big screen, even though parts of them might make terrific drama.

"We took a lot of license to compress, to synthesize it and ultimately make it accessible and expressive to an audience," Howard has explained of his movie. As a writer, I think that sounds like a good choice. Disturbingly, though, Drudge quoted "a well-placed source" as saying that the decision to "de-gay" Nash actually had to do with box-office, not artistic, concerns — presumably, American viewers wouldn't want to see Russell Crowe, who plays Nash, coming on to another man.

Let's say, however, that Howard

and screenwriter Akiva Goldman had decided to include Nash's sexuality in all its complexity in their film. Would we be happy with a Ron Howard vision of bisexuality in the 1950s?

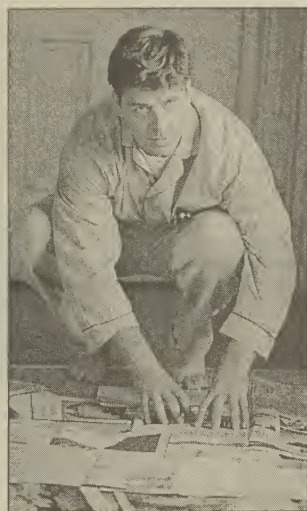
My guess is that we wouldn't. Nash's 1954 arrest for "indecent exposure" in a public men's room might have looked outright seedy to straight audiences, who have no grounding in gay history and would not have understood why men would want to (or have to) seek out sex with other men in public places.

Worse yet, it's easy to imagine audiences in middle America conflating Nash's bisexuality with his schizophrenia — neither of which they might have much knowledge of — and then crediting the love of a good woman with his emergence out of the shadows of both. Now there's the ultimate ex-gay movie. You can almost hear viewer John Doe whispering to his wife, Jane, as the house lights go up: "See, honey, I told you it could be cured!"

The fact is, gay history can be exceedingly complicated, and it's probably best if the Ron Howards of the world don't try to tackle it. Do we really want more unrealistic fare like Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia* (1995), in which a straight homophobe swallows his revulsion for gays just in time to become the savior of a gay man dying of AIDS?

The other fact is — and this is harder to accept — lesbian and gay history can be pretty grim. These days, many of us feel uplifted when we scan long lists of lesbian and gay people from the past. We've even designated October as Lesbian and Gay History Month to help us remember that same-sex desire has always been a part of the fabric of life. This reclaiming of lesbian and gay history is extremely important to our culture.

But at the same time, when you

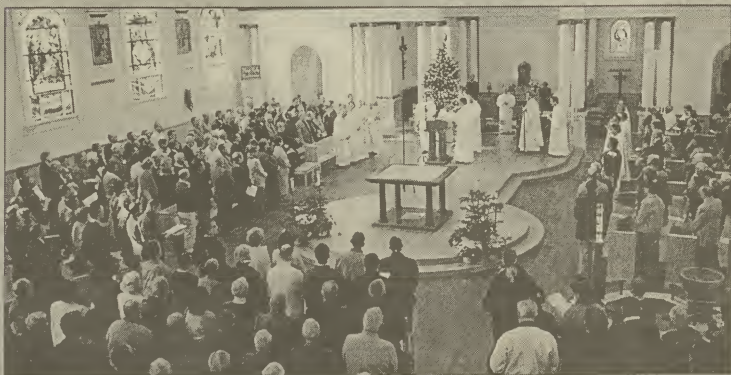
Actor Russell Crowe plays John Nash in *A Beautiful Mind*.

delve into lesbian and gay biographies, you begin to see a very sad pattern. Because homosexuality was even more deeply stigmatized in the past than it is now, a lot of our famous foremothers and forefathers suffered from depression. Some committed suicide or killed themselves more slowly with alcohol or drugs. Many denied they were homosexual or derided the term "gay." Lots of them burned the evidence of their same-sex relationships, like love letters. Many were arrested. Still others, like J. Edgar Hoover and Roy Cohn, actively worked against gay people. These kinds of problems and behaviors, brought on by institutionalized and internalized homophobia, continue into the present.

Does this mean Hollywood studios shouldn't make movies about historical gay people? Not at all. But gay history needs to be handled by screenwriters and directors who understand it — or at the very minimum have a willingness to do so. What we need aren't films that throw in homosexuality without really comprehending it, but films that deal with the complexities of living as a gay person in the past. That means exploring not just the joy of queer love, but the shame, the fear, and the sadness brought about by homophobia. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

Centennial year for Castro church



There was a big crowd at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro last Sunday, January 13 as the church celebrated the beginning of its 100th year with a special service. Both the California Assembly and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed resolutions honoring the church for its services to the community, particularly the AIDS support group which the parish started in 1985 to provide practical help for those living with HIV.

JANE PHILLIPS/CITIZEN

POLITICS

GOP's Richard Riordan talks about gay issues

by Wayne Friday

It wasn't what the **Pete Knights**, **John Doolittles**, **Lou Sheldons** or other conservative Republicans who usually choose their party nominees wanted to hear, but former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan**, the perceived front-runner for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, stepped into the sometimes stormy world of gay politics last week when he addressed a breakfast meeting of the Los Angeles-based Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality and told them that he was "willing to view the idea of civil unions" as in same-sex couples getting the rights that married couples have.

"It's as open [for discussion] as everything politically," said Riordan to the crowd of nearly 200 gays and lesbians.

This open-minded approach to civil union legislation for gays and lesbians clearly puts Riordan at odds with Republican conservatives, those party members who usually play the largest part in choosing their statewide candidates in primaries.

Though Riordan stopped short of actually endorsing same-sex unions, he told the group he is definitely "open" to civil unions, but indicated he might be more interested in expanding the state's domestic partners law to give same-sex couples more rights. While this was good news to gay and lesbian voters — particularly those who identify as Republicans — it was not good news to GOP conservatives, who will choose between Riordan and his two opponents, Secretary of State **Bill Jones** and L.A. financier **William E. Simon**. Many political observers believe that Riordan will be the GOP nominee against incumbent Democratic Governor **Gray Davis** in November.

Riordan, clearly the most moderate of the three GOP candidates, used the Los Angeles breakfast meeting to talk about his past record on gay and lesbian issues. He appointed gays and lesbians during his two terms as Los Angeles mayor, and opposed Proposition 22, which California voters overwhelmingly approved in 2000. The so-called Knight initiative defines marriage as strictly being between a man and a woman. Riordan pointed out that he opposed Proposition 22 "against political advice because I felt it was unnecessary and was a divisive measure that singled out gays and lesbians."

Conservative California Republicans and religious groups circulated petitions and mounted lobbying campaigns against AB1338, a bill that would have granted gay and lesbian couples all the rights of married couples. Clearly, Riordan risks losing votes in the March 5 primary to his conservative opponents, Jones and Simon, both of whom supported Proposition 22.

Riordan's campaign people acknowledge that probability but said their candidate was only trying to show that he is an "inclusive candidate" who is willing to reach

out to groups who haven't supported Republican candidates in the past. Riordan campaign spokesman **Matthew Szabo** said, "I am not sure how many political strategists would recommend that a Republican candidate attend a gay event during a primary election, but the mayor is committed to running as a nonpartisan and to running as himself."

Sure enough, however, Riordan's pro-gay comments at the breakfast brought quick negative responses from the conservative wing of the state GOP. The Reverend **Lou Sheldon**, the anti-gay chair of the Traditional Values Coalition, said that Riordan is showing himself to be "pro-homosexual marriage" and predicted that Riordan would indeed lose conservative votes because of his willingness to even consider same-sex unions. "They [the Riordan campaign] are puffing it as if it were the best thing since the five-cent cigar, and that rubs so irritatingly against the grain of Irish Catholics, Latino Catholics, and evangelicals."

Both of Riordan's GOP primary opponents were also quick to take what they hope is political advantage of the former mayor meeting with the group, which gave him a standing ovation after his remarks. **Sal Russo**, a campaign consultant to Simon, said that his candidate is opposed to any measure, including those sanctioning civil unions, where the government classifies people by sexual orientation. **Sean Walsh**, a campaign aide for Jones, said his candidate hasn't taken a position on same-sex civil unions, but others close to the Jones campaign said they believe the candidate opposes such civil unions between same-sex partners.

Walsh, apparently speaking on Jones's behalf, indeed called Riordan's comments "strange" because they seem to ignore the "concerns and wishes of the important Republican primary voters."

In the past, Riordan, himself a Roman Catholic, has been supportive of gay issues. In 1994, then-Mayor Riordan signed a city ordinance in Los Angeles that gave health and dental benefits to domestic partners and that same year he issued an executive order banning discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation. In 1993, Riordan also urged House Republicans to drop the ban on gays in the military and called former President **Bill Clinton's** "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy "flawed."

In the end, however, Riordan's appearance before the gay and lesbian ANGLE group might have been in vain, and could indeed end up costing him votes in the Republican primary, probably to Jones, the only one of the three candidates ever to win a statewide election. This past weekend, the 20-member board of ANGLE, while clearly appreciating the pro-gay comments from the former L.A. mayor, voted overwhelmingly to endorse incumbent Davis in the November general election.

Politics and people

The race for the 13th Assembly District Democratic nomination

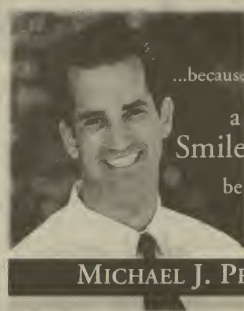
is getting a bit interesting, what with one candidate making a definitely non-politically correct crack at the recent Bicycle Coalition meeting; and another, **Holly Thier**, the only female candidate in the race with three men, being unable to land the important endorsement of the politically active local National Women's Political Caucus. The NWPC endorsement was denied Thier by supporters of **Mark Leno**. Incidentally, Leno has been endorsed by the only other women's organization that makes endorsements, the Democratic Women's Forum.

So this reader sends me a long letter last week suggesting that I've been much too generous in my recent praise for former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**. Hey, what the hell, it isn't often I praise a Republican, so gimme a break fella. Besides, Giuliani deserves a lot of praise for taking a city of millions that was rotting from crime, dilapidated buildings, and homelessness and turning it completely around. Anyone who visits New York City, as I occasionally do, knows that you can now walk through Times Square or Central Park late at night and be safe; the city is clean, safe, and beautiful again. Thanks to Giuliani, most would agree — hey the guy got elected twice as a Republican in a city with an 8-1 Democratic registration — New York City is safer now than it was before he took office.

Now, why the hell can't someone do the same for San Francisco? We could maybe start with the homeless problem. Yes, I know, you're tired of hearing about it, but, like it or not, San Francisco has indeed become "the city of and for the homeless" and no one (other than Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, that is) at City Hall seems to want to do anything about it. Now is the time; Newsom has the right idea. I would ask again, have you taken a walk down Castro Street lately? I have, often, and every time I do, some merchant or citizen complains about having to step over the homeless or the aggressive panhandlers. I wish I had \$20 for everyone who has mentioned Newsom's likely mayoral campaign to me in the past month or so.

The return of partisan politics, D.C. style: Our highly popular war president, **George W. Bush**, has proven again that he can't speak without those useful cue cards. He recently told a group of California Latino Republican business people that "not over my dead body will they raise your taxes" (Well, we know what he meant). Bush is bringing the return of partisan party politics to the Beltway; hey it's an election year, after all. Now that the troops are winning the war in Afghanistan (well almost; anyone seen **Osama bin Laden**?), Bush has taken aim at his domestic foes, the recession his own tax cut brought us, and the popular Democratic Senate leader, **Tom Daschle**. Now that he has vanquished the Taliban (but, wait, how about bin Laden?), Bush has decided to take on his politician enemies at home. However, **George W.**, realizing he is riding the popular war tide, also realizes that his old man was equally as popular after the Persian Gulf War in 1991, but due to ignoring the recession, got his ass kicked by

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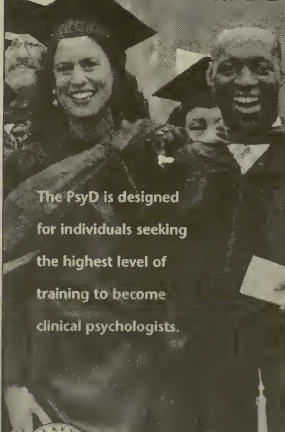
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Who was James Beard?

by Paula Martinac

January 23, 1985 (17 years ago this month): James Beard, a world-renowned authority on American food and cooking, dies in New York.

Culinary master James Beard possessed the same lifelong passion for cooking and entertaining that many gay men have experienced. He moved in gay circles and had many gay and lesbian friends. But, by most accounts, Beard was unhappy about his homosexuality, partly because he never found the soul mate he longed for.

Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1903, Beard was the only child of middle-aged parents. His British-born mother, Mary, a former restaurant manager and small-hotel owner, not only tutored him in cooking, but also in shopping for food and presenting beautiful meals. At the family's summer home on the Oregon coast, Mary furthered her son's culinary skills by teaching him to prepare and serve meals out-of-doors.

Beard apparently learned more than cooking on the beach. He later claimed that he discovered his homosexuality at the age of 10 by experimenting with other boys on the dunes. During his teenage summers, he progressed to older men, beginning a pattern of brief sexual encounters.

Besides cooking, Mary Beard's other great love was for the performing arts. She took her son to

his first opera when he was 5, and at the age of 12, Beard began acting with Portland theater companies and in school productions, dreaming of a stage career.

In 1920, he entered Reed College, where he cut a flamboyant figure on campus, even appearing at the freshman Halloween party in drag. After the administration discovered that he had been lovers with several male students and at least one professor, Beard was expelled in 1921. (Ironically, the college granted him an honorary degree after he became famous.)

His mother bundled him off to England, and Beard spent the next year traveling and taking voice lessons. In Europe, he found he could more freely explore his sexuality. But when Mary's finances became strained, she had to bring her son unwillingly home.

For years, Beard continued pursuing his acting ambitions in Portland and New York, but with little luck. He had a powerful speaking voice, but his weight—usually between 250 and 300 pounds—prevented his success. The closest he came to achieving his goal was when he found steady dramatic work on the radio.

By the late 1930s, Beard decided that cooking could earn him a better living than acting. When he met William Rhode, another food maven, at a party, the two teamed up to start a successful catering business called *Hors d'Oeuvre*

Inc. in New York.

Based on what he learned as a caterer, Beard published his first cookbook, *Hors d'Oeuvres and Canapes* in 1940. Designed for a new breed of social climbers, the volume included "modern" dishes like deviled eggs—which would soon, thanks to Beard, become de rigueur in middle-class American cuisine. The book also offered tips on how to host a successful cocktail party, like "Have plenty of cigarettes, and not just your own brand."

After serving briefly in World War II, Beard advanced his career by writing regular articles in *Gourmet* and other magazines.

Then in 1949, his *Fireside Cook Book* propelled him to stardom among food writers. A lavishly illustrated volume of more than 1,200 recipes, including such varied domestic fare as roasts, spoon bread, and eggs Benedict, the tome was geared toward making American cuisine accessible to cooks of both genders. His goal, Beard wrote, was to create a "truly national cuisine," one that used primarily fresh, regional ingredients. He did, however, include a chapter on the new rage—frozen foods.

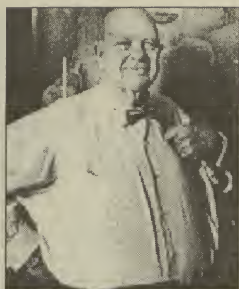
Over the next decades, Beard wrote more than 25 cookbooks on everything from entertaining to casserole cooking to barbecuing. In the 1950s and 1960s, he helped popularize backyard grilling as a "manly" pursuit—perhaps be-

cause he himself strived toward "masculine" behavior and showed disdain for "feminine" gay men.

In addition to writing, Beard added to his prosperity by lending endorsements to companies like Green Giant and acting as a consultant to restaurants. Among the establishments he created menus for were the Four Seasons in New York and Windows on the World at the top of the World Trade Center. He also opened a cooking school in his Greenwich Village townhouse in 1955.

For many years, Beard shared his New York home with his lover, Gino Cofacci, whom he met at a gay-favorite restaurant in the Village in 1956. Cofacci was an architect who was unable to stick to a job. Beard eventually sent him to France to study cooking, and Cofacci became an accomplished pastry chef. The two men hosted many gay soirees at their home, including Thanksgiving dinners with *New York Times* food writer Craig Claiborne and his lover.

But Beard suffered bouts of depression over his homosexuality and often lamented his inability to find a lover he could really talk to. The relationship between Beard and Cofacci deteriorated in the late 1960s, when Beard could no longer tolerate Cofacci's neediness. "It is not a companionship where things are shared," he wrote sadly to a friend. He then fell for his young aide and chauffeur, Carl



James Beard

Jerome; but the relationship was never consummated, because Jerome loved another man.

In his later years, Beard developed coronary disease and, after a serious heart attack, became a proponent of healthful cooking. The turnaround, however, wasn't enough to compensate for a lifetime of eating rich foods: He died of cardiac arrest on January 23, 1985. ▼

Suggested reading

Beard, James. 1964. *Delights and Prejudices*. New York: Atheneum.

Clark, Robert. 1993. *James Beard: A Biography*. New York: HarperCollins.

Jones, Evan. 1990. *Epicurean Delight: The Life and Times of James Beard*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Our Man Friday

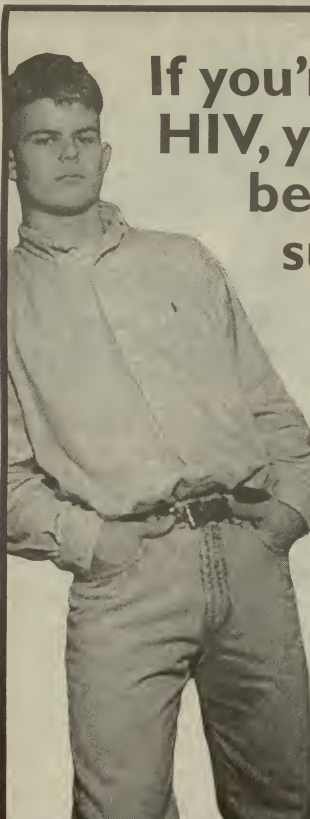
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Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, the upstart, a year later. Bush, adviser Karl Rove, and company are so nervous about Daschle (now there's a candidate for the Dems in 2004) that they've got the veep-in-hiding, Dick Cheney, calling the guy an "obstructionist," among other things. Ah, yes, the return of partisan politics. President Bush: "One of my goals in 2002 will be to see that Denny Hastert remains the speaker and that Trent Lott becomes the [Senate] majority leader." As one of my favorite columnists, Molly Ivins, says: "The president has taken to saying peculiar things again."

A press release from the California Republican Party informs us that a third debate has been scheduled among the three GOP candidates for governor; it will take place February 9 from noon to 2 p.m. at the state GOP convention at the San Jose Fairmont

Hotel.

Celebs: Speaking at a charity event in L.A. last week where he was given a Hero Award for AIDS-related fundraising, British pop legend Sir Elton John said that he was lucky not to have contracted HIV as a result of his past lifestyle. John said it took the death from AIDS in 1990 of American Ryan White to convince him to change his wild ways. He was at the 18-year-old's death bed, he recalled, and sang at his funeral. "It was a time in my life when I really wasn't behaving very well. If you look at the footage of me at Ryan's funeral I look like a 90-year-old man. Shortly afterward, I decided to get sober, especially being a gay man who was very lucky not to get infected." Because he was given a second chance, John said, he vowed to do something positive. Since then, he's become involved with the UK Coalition of People Living with HIV and AIDS and formed his own AIDS foundation, which has handed out more than \$30 million. And how was your week? ▼




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Stuck up

by Jane Warner

Dolores Park, January 11, 6:45 p.m.: A man passing through the playground noticed two men quickly walking toward him. Thinking they were going to ask for money, the man offered them a cigarette instead. Much to his surprise, one of the men pulled out a small automatic handgun and stated, "Give me your money, give me your cell phone." The man told the robbers he didn't have anything. One of the suspects grabbed the man's backpack and dumped the contents on the ground. As he was rifling through the bag, the thief suddenly screamed, "Something just poked me," and pulled out two broken tipped syringes. The suspect became furious, pacing back and forth yelling that he was poked by a needle. In a fit of rage, he went over to the man and

punched him in the face. Fearing for his life, the man started to run toward the foot bridge on Church Street when he suddenly heard two pops and felt a sharp burning sensation in his left hand. Realizing he had been shot, the victim started to weave as he ran. Passing a man sitting near a pay phone at 20th and Church, he yelled for him to call 911 as he ran onto the street and frantically tried to wave down motorists.

Police responded to the scene and found the 24-year-old victim near 20th and Church where he was taken to San Francisco General Hospital by ambulance. Doctors at the hospital removed a bullet from his left hand, which was determined to be broken. Police cordoned off the children's playground and

searched the area for suspects to no avail.

Suspect number one is described as African American, 19-25 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, with a light complexion, wearing a dark ski mask, black over coat, and dark pants. Suspect number two is Hispanic, 19-25 years old, 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighing 250 pounds, wearing a dark beanie, dark long sleeved shirt, and dark pants. If

anyone has any information regarding this shooting call (415) 553-1201.

Keep the change

California Federal Bank, 444 Castro, January 14, 12:45 p.m.: A man approached the teller and handed her a note which read,

"This is a holdup. Give me all the money." The man held one hand next to his side as if he had a gun. Fearing for her life, the teller gave the man a stack of ones and four \$50 bills and placed the money on the counter. The man grabbed the money and ran out of the bank in an unknown direction. Several police officers and FBI agents responded to the scene but were unable to find him. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 40 years old, 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds, with hazel eyes and long eyelashes, wearing a blue baseball cap with a tan bill, a dark jacket, and light colored shirt.

Re-tired

17th and Sanchez, January 11, 7 a.m.: Police responded to a call of a man passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle. When officers arrived they found a man slumped over the steering wheel

of a new Dodge sedan. The engine was running and the gear shift was in drive but the sleeping man had his foot on the brake. Next to him on the seat was a broken bottle of whiskey. After placing their squad car in front of the sedan in case the man's foot slipped, the officers pounded on the window in an attempt to arouse him. Unable to do so, officers broke the side window of the car, gaining entry. Still unable to wake the sleeping man, an ambulance was called. Paramedics arrived at the scene and were able to wake the man and determined there was no medical problem and that he probably had not been drinking. Apparently he was just a "heavy sleeper." A computer check, however, found the man to have a suspended license as well as an outstanding traffic warrant. Officers arrested the man on those charges and had his car towed. ▼

Civil unions bill

◀ page 1

port there are more than 92,000 same-sex couples living in the state. Some leaders have estimated there may be as many as 400,000 same-sex couples in California.

The Assembly's judiciary committee was expected to vote on the bill at its meeting Tuesday, January 15. With indications there were not enough votes needed for passage out of the 10-member committee, Koretz had been attempting to find another way to get the bill passed.

"Because the judiciary committee is going to be challenging, there may be other options that would be more successful for the bill. The bill is still with the judiciary committee, but that could change in the near future," Theresa Stark, Koretz's legislative aide, told the *Bay Area Reporter* earlier this month. "The author still intends to pursue the bill and hopefully have it up for a hearing and a vote. We are just trying to figure out the best way to bring it forward."

Even if the bill had passed out of the Assembly committee, many believed there wasn't much chance for its passage during an election year. While the bill is dead

this year, Koretz pledged to reintroduce the legislation next year.

"It would take a lot of courage to stand up for an issue like this in any year. But it takes more courage and conviction to stand up for it in an election year," Scott Svonkin, Koretz's chief of staff, told the *B.A.R.* "The chances for AB1338 are best in off years."

Fourteen legislators signed on as co-authors of the measure. And a broad coalition, including health organizations, women's groups, civil rights organizations, and labor groups, supported the bill.

"We made tremendous progress in getting this bill introduced. We started the public discourse and demonstrated the numerous obstacles and hardships gay and lesbian families suffer in the absence of basic legal rights that our state only extend to married opposite-sex couples," said Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality. "The issue of civil unions for same-sex couples will forever be part of our quest for equality, here in California and the rest of the country."

While several European countries have legalized either gay marriages or civil unions, Vermont is the only state in the United States to legalize civil unions. About 25 states have legislation that bars

same-sex marriage. Six states have similar legislation pending.

While California bars same-sex marriage, the state does recognize domestic partnerships. And with the passage last year of AB25, Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) domestic partners bill, the state now offers a dozen rights guaranteed by marriage to same-sex couples registered as domestic partners.

Activists in New Hampshire and Connecticut are pushing for their state legislatures to pass civil union bills. Last year New Hamp-

shire state Representative Jim Splaine unsuccessfully attempted to introduce a civil union bill similar to Vermont's.

This year, that effort has renewed energy after an outpouring of community support for a lesbian couple at Dover High School. Nicole Salisbury and Ashley Lagasse won the senior yearbook category of "best couple" by a majority vote of their classmates in late November. Principal Robert Pedersen almost disqualified the girls, arguing that the ballot required students to choose a male

and a female. But after students and parents demonstrated support for the lesbian couple, the school superintendent overturned Pedersen's decision and allowed the girls to be recognized.

Mim Easton, executive director of Seacoast Outright in Portsmouth, said she sees the inclusive attitude toward gay people at Dover High causing a change among legislators. "Change moves from the bottom up," she told the *Advocate.com*. "I see it as happening in steps. Nothing is changed completely without slow progress." ▼



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Educational equity resolution adopted by San Francisco school board

by Katie Szymanski

On January 8, the San Francisco Unified School District for the first time in a decade re-elected its school board president, Commissioner Jill Wynn, to a second term. But in similarly groundbreaking news, the meeting also saw passage of the Educational Equity Resolution, introduced last October by Commissioners Eric Mar, Eddie Y. Chin, and openly gay Commissioner Mark Sanchez.

The resolution addresses the many inequities present in the city's public schools around race, ethnicity, and economics. San Francisco public schools, for instance, consist of 89 percent students of color, but classrooms have seen increasing racial segregation and socioeconomic and language-proficiency disparity among the neighborhoods. African Americans in particular, states the resolution, are facing a "widening achievement gap," as they make up only 16 percent of the student population overall but accounted for 50 percent of all student suspensions and only 3.9 percent of students in gifted and talented programs.

"This resolution will help us make better decisions concerning those students," Sanchez told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It will help us in the staffing of schools, it will

direct the district to provide the public with easily readable data, and will allow us to look at all the statistics that deal with demographics in education."

The resolution is particularly important, said Sanchez, because race-based placement and admission within schools is no longer permitted. Yet many past desegregation strategies resulted in further segregation. For instance, said Sanchez, "We bus Latino, black, and Chinese students so they can be together and then we put them in bilingual classes where they're re-segregated.

Spending money to desegregate without desegregating is absurd."

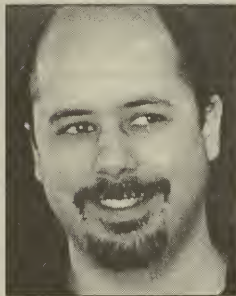
Additionally, parents used to be able to change their child's ethnicity in order to beat racial caps, helping the "other/non white" category of students to jump to 11 percent. Within that percentage are presumably uncounted Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian students who are not given their own category. Language and cultural needs therefore have not been properly addressed.

The resolution re-commits the school board to racial equity through "diversity index" deci-

sions, taking into account a student's socioeconomic status, among other factors, and providing racial, language-proficiency, and socioeconomic data to influence decisions around funding, program needs, and policies.

Moreover, the resolution will require an "Educational Equity Impact Statement" to accompany new significant policies and practices.

"It proposes a number of ways of addressing the re-isolation of students," said Sanchez, "and gives us a framework, complete with public input, to deal with future issues." ▼



Mark Sanchez

Harry Britt

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not offering to endorse him. One made a small contribution to the campaign. One did neither.

"Giving of money is not an endorsement," said Cain. "If they were giving money to buy access, they might give money to both."

Reflecting that distinction, Britt's campaign contribution envelope provides separate boxes for those wanting to contribute and those willing to go the next step and allow their name to be used as an endorser.

Britt is running in the hotly contested Democratic primary for the 13th Assembly District seat. He entered after a 10-year hiatus

from politics, during which time he was a San Francisco supervisor. Leno is also in the race.

When asked for comment, Britt campaign manager Robert Haaland charged that, "This is the B.A.R. being a leg of the Leno campaign. This is not a news story. It's incredibly petty. I'm embarrassed for your paper."

Haaland, however, later acknowledged the problem. "There was a guy who was running the campaign. He mistakenly thought that when someone gave money, they were an endorser," he said.

Cain disagreed with that assessment. "I think it's much more than a clerical error," he said. "Mr. Britt is anxious to get people on his side. In the end, he may lose these people. I think this is a tacti-

cal mistake, probably born of Mr. Britt's anxiety. The arrogance comes when you are out of politics for 10 years."

Britt repeatedly refused requests for interviews for this story, but on Tuesday, January 15, issued a statement through his campaign that didn't comment directly on the endorsement flap.

"Unlike the special interests, big money, machine-backed campaign supporting Mark Leno, my campaign is a volunteer-driven populist effort focused on meeting voters and talking about our agenda in Sacramento," Britt stated.

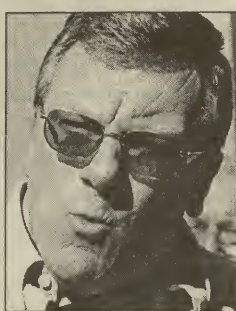
Some of those who are listed as endorsers on the Web Site told the B.A.R. that their names were used without permission or that they were endorsing another candidate.

Harold Yee, of Asian, Inc., said that his name was used without permission. "I've been in and out of the hospital for six months. You know I was not asked to do so, but if Harry asks me, I'll certainly give it very serious consideration."

Tom Nolan, executive director of Project Open Hand, also said that his name was used without permission. "I have to be neutral," he said. "I'm the director of Project Open Hand. We don't need any controversy. This organization would never endorse any candidate for anything."

Wayne Justmann is the director of the Patients Resource Center and a medical marijuana advocate. He said, "I have not signed anything allowing Mr. Britt to use my name in support of his campaign. I wasn't aware that my name appears as a supporter. Mark [Leno] has worked tremendously well with medical cannabis. I'm supporting him."

Stephen Herman, who is an



Wayne Justmann

administrator at City College of San Francisco and was a candidate for school board, said, "Candidates need to be careful. Unless they have a signature stating that they are endorsing a candidate, they should not use the name of a contributor as an endorser."

Jim Rivaldo is now a political consultant in San Francisco, but he started his career as a legislative aide to former Supervisor Harvey Milk. Britt was appointed to the board after Milk's assassination in 1978.

"I worked with Harry on his first campaigns. One of the things about him is that he doesn't concern himself with a lot of the details. I would be hesitant to call it devious," Rivaldo said.

At press time, Britt's Web site had been updated and some names of mistaken endorsers had been removed. The date at the top of the endorsement section, however, indicates the site was last updated on October 15. When the B.A.R. printed out endorsements as they appeared on the site last week, Herman, Justmann, Nolan, and Yee's names were listed as endorsers. ▼

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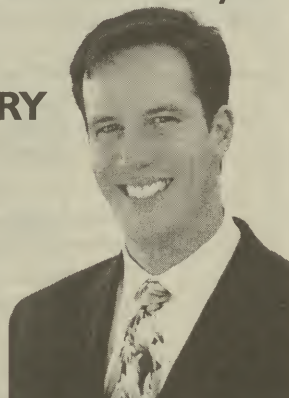
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Gay cable channels could launch next year

by Matthew S. Bajko

The race is officially on to launch the nation's first cable channel dedicated solely to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. But questions abound on who will be the first to air "Gay TV" and what they will offer as queer programming.

While media conglomerate Viacom appeared last week as the front-runner, with word leaking out that its cable networks Showtime and MTV had combined their efforts to develop a queer channel, the Washington, D.C.-based MDC Entertainment Group, begun by a trio of gay men, may actually be leading the race.

MDC Entertainment is in current discussions with cable carriers and private investors with plans to launch the USA's first ad-based digital gay TV channel by the first quarter of 2003. It has dubbed its channel ALT1-TV.

MTV and Showtime announced their yet-to-be channel would be a hybrid of pay cable (costing \$5-6 per month) and standard cable with advertising. Showtime and MTV have not announced a launch date for the channel.

It is estimated that there are more than 16.5 million gay and lesbian people in the U.S. alone, and nearly double that number in supportive friends and family who also need relevant resources, information, media, and services. Details on what either channel will offer these viewers or if advertisers will support such programming remain unclear.

And reaction from the GLBT community to the news of a gay channel has been mixed. Some hail the channel as a breakthrough while others remain skeptical it will be worth tuning in to watch.

After *TV Guide* and the *New York Times* last week both reported on Viacom's talks to develop a gay channel, the company confirmed the story Thursday, January 10.

"MTV Networks and Showtime have confirmed that, together, they are exploring a new network dedicated to programming for the gay and lesbian audience. The two companies are currently examining the potential and exploring distribution models and prospects as well as programming elements," said Joan Ziff of Showtime in a statement. "The combination of MTV Networks and Showtime brings unique access to

distribution, expertise in creating original programming, and a long track record of launching successful new niche television brands. We look forward to bringing a relevant and groundbreaking television experience to this underserved and important audience."

A week after *TV Guide* first reported on the possibility of a gay channel, MDC Entertainment Group disclosed its plans to launch a new television channel targeted to gay and lesbian viewers. The company had planned to be the first to make its announcement but found itself trumped by the earlier news of Viacom's efforts.

"It may seem like a David versus Goliath, but our strength lies in crossover appeal and the quality of our programs. It in many ways proved our idea wasn't as far-fetched," David McKillop, a partner in MDC and veteran producer, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Their model is a little bit different from ours. While they said they are going to launch a channel, it goes back to the content."

According to MDC Entertainment, the company has been working with producers who have a long history of successful, unique programming. The partners said they feel the market timing, audience maturity, and advertising support have reached a powerful crossroads that make it possible to launch a gay channel.

"Quality programming combined with genuine crossover appeal is the key to attracting operator interest and viewership in today's crowded cable environment," said Michael Airington, a co-founder of the venture.

The three principals, Airington, McKillop, and Chance Mitchell, are all openly gay and have been developing funding sources and creative content for the start-up project for the past year. Assisting coordination of ALT1-TV's production and programming efforts will be Mitchell Galin, executive producer of *Dune: The Mini-Series*, and several Stephen King projects including *The Stand*, an eight-hour miniseries for which he earned an Emmy nomination.

According to McKillop, the channel will offer gay-oriented travel, news and information, talk shows, and some humor programs. He said they are also looking to air gay films and documentaries.

"We would not carry on our channel *Queer as Folk*, something advertisers do not like," he said. "The content would not scare off

potential advertisers. The content is being developed to be high quality, interesting content that is not pornographic."

Content the key

Content will be key not only to drawing advertisers but also viewers to either channel. Another challenge will be finding shows and programs relevant or of interest to the various segments of the gay community.

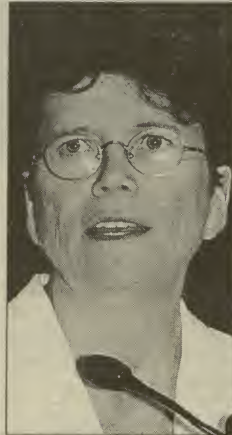
"There is an enormous amount of opportunity out there in terms of diversity of programming and reaching different parts of the GLBT audience," said Cathy Renna, news media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry added, "Despite the progress we have made in mainstream media representations, GLAAD recognizes that the diverse gay and lesbian community is still underserved as an audience."

Garry, who came to GLAAD after a seven-year tenure at Showtime and who was part of the management team that launched MTV in 1981, applauded her former companies for their decision.

"These are two networks with a long, rich history of groundbreaking and inclusive gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender programming," she said. "I can't think of two companies that are better positioned for success in this venture than MTV and Showtime."

But Queer Youth TV founder



GLAAD Executive Director
Joan Garry

and editor Bret Berg said he has doubts any gay channel will be able to cater to the varied interests

of the GLBT community.

"It is going to be really tough to satisfy all aspects of the queer market. I felt this would quickly turn into a gay men's channel rather than a queer channel because that is where the advertising dollars would be," said Berg, who produces content for queer youth delivered over the Internet and on cable access channels. "There may be a lot of pissed off reaction from the lesbian and transgender communities."

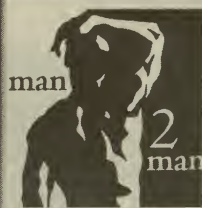
And with MTV playing a part in developing a gay channel, Berg said he wonders if the programming will appeal to audiences over 25 years of age. Echoing the comments of many GLBT people, Berg said recycling old programs with gay characters or airing gay films does not automatically guarantee viewers.

"A lot of queer cinema is terrible. It is the awful truth nobody wants to admit to," he said. "With MTV's track record over the past 10 years, I will not be surprised if this network sucks." ▼

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Improve your money-smarts at upcoming free seminars

by Katie Szymanski

The current recession has hit many LGBT people, with job cuts, dwindling retirement plans, and stock crashes shaping many future decisions.

"Control your wealth" is the subject of an upcoming seminar on Tuesday, January 22, chaired by Max Newman and Richard Ford, financial advisors at Morgan Stanley. This seminar will focus on estate planning and will include how recent tax law changes could affect such preparations.

Morgan Stanley – a global financial firm offering securities,

asset management, and credit services – will host the event, which begins at noon in the San Francisco office at 101 California Street.

And while the presentation will not necessarily be gay-specific, "It's designed for the masses," according to sales manager Chris Weng. "Single people, married people, partnered people ... anyone can benefit from it."

Tuesday's seminar is free and open to the public, as is another upcoming seminar, "Financial Planning," which will be given on February 26. To make a reservation for either or both events, call (415) 693-7082, or 693-6969. ▼



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Bush makes two recess appointments

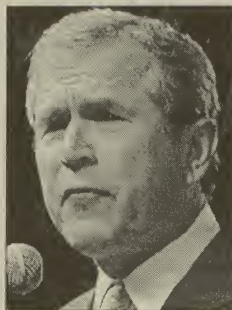
by Kathy A. Gambrell,
UPI White House Reporter

President George W. Bush on Friday, January 11 announced recess appointments of conservatives Otto J. Reich and Eugene Scalia to serve in his administration, sidestepping opposition from the Democratically controlled Senate.

Bush notified Congress earlier in the day of his intention to name Scalia to serve as solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor, and Reich as the assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs. The White House publicly announced the appointments Friday.

The White House had been frustrated when Congress adjourned for the holidays at the end of December without confirming the president's choices for the two posts. White House sources have described the situation as troubling for the administration's policy team and left open the possibility that Bush might exercise his authority to appoint the two men while Congress was away.

Reich and Scalia, the son of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, will be able to serve in their posts until Congress adjourns at the end of the year. Reich, a conservative Cuban American, served as assistant administrator of the



George W. Bush

Agency for International Development during the Reagan administration, then as the first director of the State Department's Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean. While serving in that post, Reich was accused of overseeing an illegal propaganda movement aimed at toppling Nicaragua's Sandinista government. He also served as the ambassador to Venezuela.

Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut), criticized the decision to appoint Reich. "I regret the administration has made this decision. The appointee becomes a lame duck as soon as he takes the position and can only serve until the end of this Congress," Dodd said in a news release. "There are

many difficulties in the region and it is unfortunate that U.S. foreign policy in the region is being sacrificed for a narrow domestic political agenda."

Scalia becomes the Labor Department's top attorney, a move that has raised the ire of the nation's largest labor union. AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney called Scalia's appointment a "slap in the face of American workers" and one that "by all standard rules should not have happened."

"It has been clear since early fall that Eugene Scalia could not be confirmed by the Senate. The recess appointment today simply underscores the Bush administration's lockstep allegiance to the corporate agenda of blocking needed worker protections," Sweeney said.

Scalia had sharply opposed the ergonomic rules enacted by the Clinton administration, dismissing them as "quackery" and "junk science."

Republicans had charged that Senate Democrats were purposely holding up confirmations of both Reich and Scalia as political payback for the 2000 presidential election decision. Scalia served as special assistant to U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr in the early 1990s. He also served as speech writer to U.S. Education Secretary William J. Bennett from 1985 to 1987. ▼



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Ecstasy bill passes one state committee, fails in another

by Joe Dignan

The Assembly Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, January 15 passed a measure, AB1416, authored by Assemblywoman Lynne Leach (R-Walnut Creek), which, if enacted, would classify ecstasy as a Schedule I narcotic under California law.

Schedule I narcotics are those, such as heroin, which have no medical uses and have a high potential for abuse. "Ecstasy is a stimulant and hallucinogenic drug being actively marketed to young people through 'rave' parties and high school drug networks," said Leach.

The Assembly committee removed a provision of the bill mandating a minimum 90-day jail term for being under the influence of ecstasy before passing it.

An identical measure failed in the state Senate Public Safety Committee. Senator John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose) led opposition in the Senate.

Leach's bill will advance to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, chaired by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). Migden had not taken a position on the bill as of press time.

It must clear the full Assembly by January 31 to pass on to the

Senate, where the same Senate Public Safety Committee that rejected its version of the bill by a 2-2 vote Tuesday would hear it.

Ecstasy, or MDMA, is already classified as a Schedule I drug by the federal government. When local and state authorities prosecute cases of ecstasy possession in California, they use the "analog" statutes which permit prosecution of drugs substantially similar in chemical structure or which have a similar effect as a Schedule I or Schedule II drug.

"The reason we have an analog act is that we had huge proliferation of designer drugs in the 1980s," said Julie Ruiz-Sierra of the Lindesmith Center Drug Policy Foundation. "And so underground chemists would just tweak a known drug so that it was a molecule or two off. Instead of having to go through the time and expense of having to add each and every one, they just said - close enough. Analog is a catch-all for variations."

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration put ecstasy on its Schedule I list in 1986. When it did so, according to opponents of AB1416, it ignored the recommendation of the administrative law judge, Francis Young, who presided over the hearings. Young's recommendation was that ecstasy belonged under Schedule

III classification.

Doctors use drugs in Schedule III for therapy. They are classified as having less potential for abuse, are acceptable for medical use and can be used with some appropriate safety standards.

As a matter of comparison, methamphetamine (speed) and cocaine are both Schedule II drugs. That means they have some medical uses, but a high potential for abuse.

"I haven't met many people with ecstasy problems, but I've encountered plenty with speed and cocaine problems," said Ruiz-Sierra. "This bill seeks to classify ecstasy as a more dangerous drug than speed or cocaine."

Last November 2, the Food and Drug Administration approved a protocol for a Phase I clinical study on uses of ecstasy in treating patients with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Opponents of AB1416 say that it appears that the federal government is slowly reversing its policy on the medical uses of ecstasy and that California should follow that lead.

"It would be a shame to further confuse the issue by putting it on our Schedule I," said Ruiz-Sierra. "We don't want to see them duplicate the federal error."

The Lindesmith Center is on page 19 ►

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Without youth voice in AIDS fight, ideas won't be heard

by Ned Howey

I was fifth grade sex education class during the mid-1980s where I first learned about straight sex. It was day one of our seven-day special "sex ed" program. After all the slips had been signed by our parents - and our teacher made clear that only the reproductive function of sexuality, not the pleasurable side, would be discussed - my teacher told us about the "birds and the bees." It was on day three that they showed us a video on AIDS. Our class was the first to receive information on the relatively new disease. On day five, in a question and answer period, a student asked about how gay men have sex. It is then that I learned about the kind of sex that was the kind I wanted to have.

For my generation of queer men, AIDS has been integral part of our sexuality from the very realization of that sexuality. We came out and came into a community where a great portion of a generation of our peers had perished and perish still. Our newspapers are filled with articles about it, our movies and plays are preoccupied with it, and it is so common for the first response to young gay men when they come out to be, "you better have safe sex."

If our identity is made in part by our community's history then AIDS is a part of us all, HIV-positive and -negative alike. One would think that we would be a generation of activists but this, sadly, is not the case.

Last year at the AIDS Candlelight Vigil I remember looking out into the crowd, searching to find young faces and seeing so few there. Unlike the candlelight vigils I attended for the September 11 victims or the anti-war protests that followed, the AIDS vigil seemed overwhelmingly lacking in youth.

Young people are commonly leaders in the areas of activism. Sadly enough, however, AIDS ac-

tivism seems to be lacking in youth.

This disease is clearly not isolated to older people. Young people are still contracting the virus at alarming high rates. Study after study has shown this. Perhaps it is the fact that many young people who contract HIV don't know that they have, and often HIV does not develop into AIDS until they are beyond youth.

Some youth might be under the wrong impression that AIDS is not something that affects us. Part of the reasoning could even be that we have grown up in a world where AIDS is so very prevalent. Perhaps young people have become de-

sensitized.

Truly I am unsure what the real cause is. But the fact is that AIDS is still here and still predominantly queer. Studies show that in San Francisco roughly 80 percent of new HIV cases occur in men who have sex with men.

Queer youth, positive and negative alike, have a responsibility to do something about it.

What is perhaps most frightening is that without youth active in AIDS work, the ideas of youth will not be heard. The problems of young people who are positive will not be considered. Prevention strategies will be based on ideas that are not our own and therefore will be unsuccessful. As young people we have our own experiences and culture, one that is markedly different than the generation before us. Perhaps this lack of voice within AIDS activism is in part the reason why the disease is spreading so swiftly among us. It is therefore equally important that adults involved with AIDS education and activism listen and give value to those opinions and experiences of young queer men.

The lack of youth activism is in no part due to a lack of programs with which young people can get involved. There are many wonderful ways for young people to get involved with AIDS activism. Bay Area Young Positives is a service providing peer-based support for

HIV individuals 26 and under. You can contact BAY Positives at (415) 487-1616. LBGTQQ youth 23 and under can also get involved in LYRIC's peer health educator program. The program works to help queer youth develop health workshops for other youth. Interested individuals should contact Joe Ereneta at Joe@Lyric.org. The Stop AIDS Project runs an AIDS education program called Q Action for youth 26 and under. For information on this call (415) 575-0164.

One of the best ways to get involved with AIDS action is simply to pick among the many AIDS organizations in the city and begin volunteering. No matter what your interests, from helping to take care of pets to staffing a phone hotline, there most likely is an AIDS organization that is perfect for you. A great way to find out about volunteering for these organizations is to go to the Coalition of AIDS Volunteer Managers Web site at www.cavm-bayarea.org.

As rates of HIV infection amongst queer youth climb, now is the time for resurgence in AIDS activism within the same group. Now is the time to act. ▼

Ned Howey is 23 years old. He is the volunteer/outreach coordinator of PAWS and the coordinating committee director of Q-Force. To find out about writing a future "Generation Q" column, which appears in conjunction with the Bay Area Reporter and LYRIC, please e-mail Ned_the_red@yahoo.com. All lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people age 25 and under are welcome to join the group of writers. No experience is required. All that is required is a different experience and the will to tell it. Because of the age of some of the writers or the fact that they may not be out to their families or face other circumstances, the authors of this column may only be identified by their first names.

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**Leather community helps students**

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy principal Sande Leigh, left, was all smiles as she accepted a check for \$8,000 from Jim Mitulski of the San Francisco Public Library's Hornet Gay and Lesbian Center during a school program honoring the birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. on Tuesday, January 15. The money, a collaboration between SMMILE, producers of the Folsom Street Fair, and the Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library, will enable fifth graders at the school to go to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles next month. Next to Mitulski are Paul Gormsen, from the library foundation, and Bob Goldfarb, president of SMMILE. Mitulski noted the gift showed that the leather community and librarians share a passion for teaching public school children about acceptance and celebration of human diversity.

Jane Philomena Cleland

OBITUARIES

U.S. surgeon general to leave post

by Kathy A. Gambrell,
UPI White House Reporter

U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher announced Tuesday, January 15 that he would step down as the nation's top doctor next month and become the first director of the National Center of Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

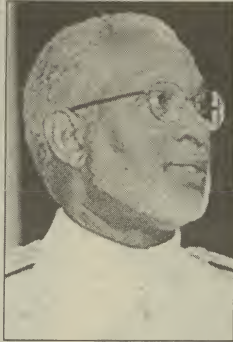
"The opportunity to return to Atlanta, and especially to Morehouse School of Medicine, and continue to work as a public health leader was one I couldn't resist," said Satcher.

Satcher, a Clinton administration appointee, will take the helm of the policy and research institution at the predominantly black, all-male school as he leaves in February the post he has occupied for four years. He has been the nation's 16th surgeon general. After his departure he will also work as a visiting senior fellow with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and work on his memoirs.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy B. Thompson called Satcher "a tireless advocate for preventing disease and promoting better health."

"His efforts to deal with a wide range of important health problems, especially disparities in health among various populations, have a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of our nation," Thompson said in a statement Tuesday.

It is unclear who President George W. Bush will tap to replace Satcher, though it is expected to be a physician who supports the ad-



Surgeon General David Satcher

ministration's anti-abortion views. Speculation has surfaced that Bush may be seeking a physician with experience in bioterrorism.

Expertise in chemical and biological terrorism became important to the administration after anthrax-tainted letters were sent to government officials and news organizations, and contaminated post offices around the country, killing five people, including two postal workers.

Satcher will work alongside Dr. Louis Sullivan, president of the Morehouse School of Medicine and former Health and Human Services secretary in the first Bush administration.

"We wanted him to once again become a part of our institution's culture of excellence," Sullivan said.

Satcher returns to Atlanta where he had served as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the government's medical facilities. Before joining the administration, he

was president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Like his predecessors C. Everett Koop and Joycelyn Elders, Satcher drew fire for his views on sexuality. He drew fire from the Bush White House and Republican conservatives last year after he released a report saying that no evidence existed supporting the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs. The White House quickly distanced itself from Satcher saying those statements had come from a surgeon general it did not appoint.

Most recently Satcher issued a "call to action," saying some 300,000 deaths a year are related to obesity, and calling for the removal of fast-food from schools.

Satcher also spent his term focusing on suicide, mental health, and racial disparities in health care. He also drew attention to smoking prevention as the Clinton administration took aim at tobacco companies in federal court. The surgeon general had said he wanted to work to restrict cigarette advertising directed toward children around the world.

During a World Health Organization conference in October 2000, Satcher pointed out that smoking-related deaths globally would rise to 10 million per year by the year 2030, with 7 million occurring in developing countries.

Satcher had also supported needle exchange programs to reduce the spread of the HIV virus and AIDS infection, calling the lack of support in Congress for the concept a "repudiation of science," much of which has been studies performed by federal researchers showing the idea effective. ▼

Eric Sorensen



The music stopped at 3:15 p.m. on January 10, 2002 when Eric left us for his next engagement. He exited the stage peacefully, surrounded by love. He is survived by Fred Bové, his life partner of 16

years, his parents, Bob and Carol Sorensen, grandparents, Guy Bell and Doris Sorensen, his brother Ronald and wife Gail, and niece Olivia, all of Lodi, California. He also leaves behind his "tumbledown old cat," Phyllis, and a host of heartbroken co-workers, friends and family. He was a courageous cancer survivor, mischievous child, loyal friend, loving partner and talented musician.

Eric grew up in Lodi, attended Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, and, since 1986 worked for the Department of Public Health AIDS Office. He sang professionally with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the San Francisco Concert Choral, the Schola Cantorum and numerous other groups. His beautiful and brave tenor voice still rings in our hearts, and the music he gave us will never die.

A memorial service, musical extravaganza and 41st birthday party will be

held on Saturday, February 9th at 4 p.m. at the Swedenborgian Church (Washington & Lyon streets). Aloha or casual attire is encouraged. Donations in his memory may be made to the Wildwood Foundation, or the Eric Sorensen Memorial Scholarship Fund for Voice, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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SFAF bike ride

◀ page 1

the Avon 3-day breast cancer walks.

"When they received a bill for delinquent tax filing, all their beneficiaries were billed for that. When they were thinking of developing a new event, the purchase of domain names for that [still non-existent] event was billed out to all beneficiaries. There are a number of bills for travel and accommodation that certainly don't have any connection to California AIDS Ride; for instance one bill for a trip to Chicago is listed as 'Book Tour.'"

Dan Pallotta's book, *When Your Moment Comes: A Guide to Achieving Your Dreams by a Man Who Has Led Thousands to Greatness*, was released in September 2001.

The cross-promotion didn't end there, according to many California AIDS Ride participants.

"Last year's ride was bizarre," Mark Dunlop, a city redevelopment commissioner and cyclist with the Positive Peddlers, told the B.A.R.

"For me and other people with AIDS, the ride was always about AIDS. But it turned into some weird self-empowerment trip, with all this heavy cross-selling that wasn't even subtle."

Even the advertisements for Pallotta events not only promote other Pallotta events, but they promote Dan Pallotta - from his high school days in the debate club to his later issues with self-esteem.

When it became apparent, according to SFAF and the center, that AIDS Ride had not only missed its financial mark but lost its spirit as well, the organizations broke away and decided for

their own ride.

The cycle continues

Throughout the lawsuit, organizers never stopped planning AIDS/LifeCycle. But some would-be riders had doubts about whether the event would be allowed to proceed. Suárez said he hopes those people will now register. Dunlop, for one, said that LifeCycle can count him in.

"I'm sort of excited about it. I'm assuming it will be a lot more bare-bones but we'll be getting back to both the message and funding," said Dunlop.

Aside from a lack of Pallotta advertisements, Suárez emphasized, there will be nothing bare-bones about the event.

"There has been some confusion, where people seem to think

they will be on their own," said Suárez.

AIDS/LifeCycle, say organizers, is "a fully supported and safe event, with experienced logistical support, food, tents, showers and route support, training and fund-raising support, and the highest priority placed on the needs of people with HIV/AIDS."

One difference at this event, noted Suárez, is that the money raised "won't be used to pay for concrete barriers in Chicago or delinquent taxes in Philadelphia." ▼

Close to 800 people have already signed up for AIDS/LifeCycle. To participate, visit www.AIDSLifeCycle.org or call toll-free at 866-BIKE4AIDS.

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Pretzel logic

by Jim Provenzano

Let's not talk about how watching football can kill you.

It could have left us Cheney-fied if George W. Bush hadn't been saved after choking on a pretzel while watching a game. No secret al Qaeda poison plot, just plain old armchair quarterbacking, and backing up, esophagically speaking, fortunately.

NBA Lakers-Bulls televised violence? Not goin' there. Shaq is whack.

Let's not get into the murderous hockey truck-driver dad who, almost two years ago, pummeled a much smaller man to death at a kids' practice, "since he wouldn't let go of my wrist."

His trial wrapped up last week; sentencing is set for later this month. But don't look here for a debate over the judicial slap on said body part he'll likely get as a sentence, since he's a "good father."

Remember, it's not psychopathic parents who're hurting sports, it's those homos.

Forget that footballer Kordel Stewart was allegedly arrested for having gay sex in Pittsburgh's Point Park years back. He's a woman-chasing stud! Lock up your sisters and daughters. Sports

Illustrated was only too happy to regale us with Stewart's latest bedroom braggadocio.

Bill S. might have said, "Me-thinks he doth protest too much," but we're not goin' there.

Peek-at-chu

We're not looking into the peepholes in the locker rooms of Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders, with football players watching them.

Forty-two Eagles are suing owners of 29 stadiums for proven peeping through doors, drilled holes, and ripped out doorknobs.

The women's locker rooms are usually right next to the men's.

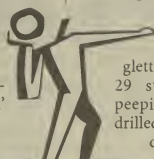
This widely known 10-year-old NFL hobby seems to compose half of all Internet content, according to my spam.

Too bad none of it's for videos with the cameras aimed in the other direction.

A sassy *Inside Edition* story queried whether these women, paid to be sex symbols, should be so upset over being ogled at.

No, that duty should belong to the players.

Hidden locker room peepers? Web sites like those selling the male version are rampant, since we gays are so much more advanced in such things. Why go to the gym when you can download



Sports Complex



Spish, next week's gay and lesbian water polo fashion fundraiser, could get as festive as this Spanish team's shindig.

it?

Let's keep it local. SFGate.com features an unintentionally ironic headline for its Patriots feature: "Hole in the Wall Gang."

Chemical brothers

A state Senate committee ruffled some papers before a near-empty auditorium on the local news.

Greg Davis, former student athlete, testified, saying, "As a student athlete you're willing to do whatever you can to get there. And if everyone else is taking it, you feel that if you're not taking it you're going to be left behind."

Students, aided by a gay porn fiction and its trickle-down theory of trends getting lifted via A&E to straight teens, have to warp their bodies to get buff. The problem with regulating supplements is that the FDA categorizes them as food.

And if you combine Creatine with GHB, you explode. Never knew a vegetable that could do that.

Bus and them

If you notice even worse than usual bus service, blame sports! Yep, the Salt Lake City Olympics are getting 50 Muni buses as a promotional scam, er, device, thunk up by our City Hall promotional types.

"Please visit. We're broke," the cheery Rice-a-Roni bus posters might as well say.

One way for Olympic fans to visit this spring might be a small water craft. Barry Bonds, who signed on for five more Giant years, has the whole Peninsula shivering in pleasure. One friend made phallic jokes at that comment, saying our town is shaped ...

like that.

I think of Manhattan as a clearer example. Our little sand bar appears geographically to be more of an appendix.

One athletic battle ready to burst is the dueling AIDS Ride war being waged in a courtroom.

We're not careening into that bike fight, except to say that now that the Pallottites' financial greed has been exposed to daylight, it's as if a dark overlord has unleashed his wheeled monkeys to put a stop to the SF AIDS Foundation-created LifeCycle.

"One if not both of these rides is going to fail," Pallotta attorney Jayne Kacer told the judge. "There just isn't enough community."

And enough money for your clients, right?

So, if felonious hockey dads, fisticuffs basketball, suing cyclists, peeping Tom NFLers, and a pretzel-choking prez aren't enough sports, Olympic fans are supposed to hop on Southwest to ride a trolley?

Sure they are! For women's flag football, gay water polo pool parties, pool-playing gay bars, and other GLBT events.

Big boned gals

Women all over the Bay Area are gearing up for the upcoming spring football season. Since football is a sport that requires diverse skills and body types, the San Francisco Women's Flag Football League (SFWFFL) is recruiting large, strong women to fill specific positions. This sport is available to women that may not fit the mold of a traditional athlete. The league is seeking dedicated team players with good sportsmanship.

Having played football before or not, large or small, women may be interested in the fact that the

league has set up a football training camp known as "Boot Camp 101" designed by seasoned football players and league referees.

Boot Camp teaches women the basics and the rules of football, giving them access to a sport traditionally played by men. Women interested in playing should start by attending Boot Camp 101 at Glen Park, in San Francisco, on Sunday, January 20, at 10:30 a.m. For more information on how to get to Glen Park, please visit www.sfwffl.com.

The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League, for women 18 years and older, features a recreationally competitive league that provides opportunities to enhance your athletic skills, learn football strategy and techniques, and to get involved with your community. The league is run by volunteers who love the game of flag football and welcome others to learn about it too.

Many of the previously interviewed lesbian pro football players grew from the ranks of this active rec league. This is your chance to scrimmage with 'em before they become famous.

Important SFWFFL dates to remember:

January 20: Football Boot Camp 101 begins. Every Sunday until season starts.

February 10: Deadline to register a team.

March 10: Spring season begins.

March 10: Season kick-off BBQ at the Wild Side West, SF 3-8 p.m.

Get involved on an existing team or enroll your team in the spring 2002 league by contacting Judea Eden at (415) 401-0197 or e-mail judeae@microsoft.com.

next page ►



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Women's football springs into action.

Supes move toward repealing obscure laws

by Joe Dignan

It is now specifically illegal in San Francisco to throw banana peels, beat carpets on sidewalks, spit on streetcar floors and wear hats in theaters. It's also against the law to swim naked in the bay, but like most of these statutes, it's also not a very common thing to get arrested for.

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno has written, and a committee of the Board of Supervisors passed on Tuesday, January 15, an ordinance that would repeal more than 50 old and obscure sections of San Francisco's police code.

Some of these provisions are merely amusing, some are more serious and would today be judged unconstitutional. But all are reflections of the times in which they were written — when city government felt it could legislate morality and sexual practices and solve the simple problems of the city with the stroke of a pen.

The most serious of these code sections provided police with tools to harass and arrest gay people and abridge the constitutional rights of San Franciscans. One of the provisions Leno wants to eliminate makes it illegal for "sexual perverts of any type" to loiter in a place of business. The code section then goes on to define a "pervert" as anyone who engages in gay sex.

"Our laws should reflect the society in which we live. If we expect people to obey the laws we have, we should make them possible to obey. These codes are either anachronistic, duplicative of state law, or unconstitutional," Leno said at the hearing.

Some of the codes address specific problems of specific moments in San Francisco history and so provide a glimpse into the past.

One of them prohibits gambling on Ocean Beach.

At the turn of the century the wild western part of the city was

nothing but sand dunes, and the railway companies used the beach as a dumping ground for worn-out streetcars. These hulks provided a relatively comfortable haven for gamblers. So much so, that an enterprising businessman institutionalized the idea and built what became known as a notorious roadhouse called "Tait's at the Beach" on top of a sand hill. Tait's, and the streetcars, were bulldozed out of existence before World War I, but their legacy will live on in the police code until the supervisors pass Leno's measure.

"I can't remember an occasion where we've used any of these things," said Sergeant William Coggan of the SFPD. Coggan along with Leno, his aide Nathan Purkiss, and Dorji Roberts, a deputy city attorney, wrote the bill.

And then there's the hat thing. The police code now, for the moment at least, prohibits wearing hats in theaters. This one was authored by a Dr. Tulio Rotanzi. He was a doctor in the city. He was a theater enthusiast. And he was short in stature.

Women's hats at the turn of the last century, grew larger and larger as fashion evolved. A few feathers metamorphosed into bouquets of plumes. Rotanzi had apparently spent many evenings sitting behind one or several ladies wearing such hats, craning his neck, not able to see the show except through a spray of ostrich feathers.

So he ran for supervisor. He got elected, and he wrote his law: "No person shall wear any hat or bonnet or other head covering within any licensed theater, nickelodeon, moving picture show..."

And then he resigned. He was done. He returned to his medical practice, going to shows, and, one can imagine, tapping the woman in front of him politely on the shoulder and murmuring, "Madame, you are in violation of Section 764 of the San Francisco Police Code, kindly remove..." ▼

HIV study

◀ page 3

numbers to verify what a lot of us already know; a lot of people are doing a lot of drugs," said Michael Siever, executive director of the Stonewall Project, a substance abuse program. "People do crystal a hell of a lot in the community. It is important to have the statistics to back that up."

Siever, who was part of the study's community advisory board, said he is not surprised by the number of men who reported injecting drugs, mainly methamphetamines.

"The reality is a lot of men in our community, whether they do it regularly, have at least tried shooting it," said Siever, whose program has a four month waiting list before men can receive

treatment. "It is something that doesn't get talked about and something people don't necessarily admit to their friends. There is a lot of stigma attached to injecting drugs."

For John Newmeyer, an epidemiologist with the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic and member of the HPPC, the number of men using speed, whether injected or not, is troubling. While he cautioned the numbers may not be representative of the entire gay population, Newmeyer said there appears to be a big population who is at high risk according to the data.

"I was astounded at how high the population rate of admitted IV drug use is," he said. "This, at least in terms of risk taking, seems to be an extraordinary population that needs to be worked with. More and more of our programs should be late-night outreach." ▼

Ecstasy bill

◀ page 15

advocacy and research group that advocates public health-based alternatives to the drug war. It is funded in part by billionaire George Soros.

"California code doesn't have to conform," said Ruiz-Sierra. "These people are trying to do something for kids. They just don't understand how counterproduc-

tive prohibitionist measures can be. The kids are going to be doing it anyway. If it's in Schedule III, we can understand what it's doing and if there's a way to reduce the harms associated with using it."

The bill's author, Assemblywoman Leach, is in her final term as a California legislator. She has made education the focus of her legislative career. She is currently running for state superintendent of public instruction. The primary election for that post is in March. ▼

Noel and Knoller

◀ page 1

the couple "blurred the boundaries" between humans and dogs. He cited Knoller's statements that her dog Bane was sniffing at Whipple's crotch just before the attack and may have instigated the mauling after being sexually aroused by her. Hammer argued that any sexual conduct between the couple and the dogs would therefore be relevant since by Knoller's account, a sexual attraction may have sparked the attack.

Hammer's arguments enraged Knoller's attorney, Nedra Ruiz. She called Hammer's remarks "specious filth." Ruiz said Hammer was basing his implication of bestiality on an incident when Bane came into the couple's bedroom while they were having sex. Ruiz said the couple immediately put the dog out of the room.

Hammer angrily called Ruiz's counterargument "a falsehood." He suggested that if the conduct with Bane and the couple was so innocuous, then the evidence should be unsealed.

"Let the truth out," Hammer said, telling Warren that Ruiz was opening the record "in a false light."

Warren declined Hammer's challenge to release information about the incident but he admonished Ruiz to not discuss in open court information that is under court-ordered seal.

Hammer also said that Knoller's relationship with Schneider "was more than a friendship, it was intimate." Hammer argued that since Schneider is being called as a witness in the case, his relationship to Knoller is relevant because it speaks to Schneider's bias.

Ruiz countered by saying that there "was no sex in the touchy-feely sense that word invokes."

Ruiz, well-known for her demonstrative courtroom style, did not disappoint. She shouted, flailed her arms, and even stomped her feet during some of her more impassioned arguments. When Hammer referred to one of the couple's dogs "mugging a blind woman," Ruiz interrupted



San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren

shouting: "Your honor, that is a lie." She apologized for the outburst.

In a victory for the defense, Warren called the couple's adoption of Schneider "irrelevant" to the case against them.

In another win for the defense, Warren said witnesses would not be allowed to testify about their state of mind when they encountered the couple's dogs unless they communicated that state of mind to them at the time of the encounter. The defense had said they were concerned that anybody could come forward to say that they had been terrified of the dogs.

The hearing was attended by Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, and a handful of supporters including Kate Kendell, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Kendell is also one of the attorneys representing Smith in her civil wrongful death suit against Noel and Knoller.

Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she plans to attend parts of the trial if she's not barred because she's a witness. Outside court on Tuesday, she told reporters that it's a difficult time of year.

"It's been tough," she said. "I haven't been here for a couple of months and seeing [Noel and Knoller] and January, her birthday, the anniversary [of the attack]; it's been tough."

Smith said she planned to mark the anniversary by attending

a candlelight march set for 5-7 p.m. January 26 in the Castro.

Noel and Knoller's trial is scheduled to start in downtown Los Angeles on Thursday, January 24, just two days before the anniversary of Whipple's death. It will be held in the same courthouse that hosted the OJ Simpson trial. Prosecutors said that jury selection could take anywhere from one to three weeks, so opening statements likely won't happen until sometime in February.

The prosecution has named 129 witnesses and the defense is expected to call as many as 60 witnesses. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan said that his department has allocated a "bare bones" budget of \$275,000 for the trial. Hallinan said the prohibitive cost was one of the reasons his department had argued so vigorously against trying the couple separately.

Noel and Knoller have been in jail since they were arrested last March. They will soon be moved from the San Francisco County Jail to a jail near the Los Angeles courthouse.

Knoller, 46, was with her two dogs during the hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor. She faces second-degree murder as her most serious charge. Noel, 60, is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Each is also charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Aquatic perk

Catch a live swimsuit edition of our local water polo team at the splashy "Splash" party. Join the team and have a great time sending Tsunami Polo to the Gay Games. They had a few great scrimmages last year, and hope to take on oceanic opponents from L.A., Seattle, and Sydney, among others, down under.

Your admission gets you two drinks, appetizers, and entrée to a fun crowd. Enjoy a Speedo-filled fashion show featuring clothes by Body, Citizen, and the men and women of Tsunami Polo! Water ballet, anyone?

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. To purchase advance tickets use this site or send your name, phone, and e-mail with a check made out to "Tsunami Polo" to 135 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Questions? E-mail steve-naronowitz@hotmail.com.

Racked

For pool of a different sort, the San Francisco Pool Association, a bar pool league formed way, way back in 1978, is still shooting from the corner pocket.

Sponsored by various gay bars

throughout the city, they play two seasons per year. The spring season is about to get under way. Sign-ups are scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, at the Transfer (198 Church Street at 14th/Market), from 7-9 p.m.

"Last season we had 26 teams, sponsored by 17 bars and pool halls," said Rick Bradford, treasurer of the SFPA. "We play on Tuesday nights at the bars throughout the city."

Every six months, the green felt fans gather to participate in the West Coast Challenge, where the league's champions play the champs from nearby cities. Long Beach is hosting the next WCC, January 18-20.

Perhaps midnight hotel showings of *The Color of Money* and *The Hustler* might be on the bill.

Duck soup

Internationally sexy sports news shall be toyed with, if only briefly.

Basketball star Randy Duck, a guard for the Brighton (England) Bears, is talking to his lawyers after someone posted a sex ad on a gay Web site, the *Brighton Evening Argus* reports.

"This is really serious and it is seriously false," Duck, 27, said. "I did not put this advert on the Web. I don't even know the Web site. I think it's pretty sad when someone doesn't have a life and

spends their time doing this."

Perhaps he should seek fellow Brit Andrew Sullivan for some online profile counseling. I'm too busy Duck hunting!

TV réalité

Kudos to our editor, Cynthia Laird, for offering comments on the proposed gay TV concept covered on Monday's KRON 4 news. Until the MTV-Showtime merger comes a calling for the most fabulous sports commentator — "I'm ready for my two-shot, Mister DeMille!" — you'll have to settle for a live appearance.

Afterwords, a new anthology from Alyson features an "adventure atletique" I had in Paris sometime in the "fin-de-siècle passé." Most of the story's in English. I'll be reading it aloud. "Mon dieu."

"Ou e quand?" Thursday, January 17 (tonight), 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, with fellow contributors Matt Bernstein Sycamore, Eric Brandt, and a slew of other literary talents whose names escape me since I handed out all those flyers editor Kevin Bentley sent me.

I'll also be happy to sign copies of other books I'm in. Anything to help the local economy.

Should your bus to the bookstore land you in Utah, then buy it and other books online at www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Does your department offer on-site childcare? Elder care referral?
Is flex-time widely available to your employees? How many utilize
stress reduction programs?

In January 2001, the Department on the Status of Women surveyed the City and County of San Francisco to assess the type and extent of work-life programs and policies within City and County departments. The report, which contains an analysis of the survey results, is available at <http://www.ci.sanfrancisco.ca.us/cow/worklife/index.html>

The survey found that departments with flexible work-life policies cited this as a strength that also helped with job retention and recruitment, and most viewed the benefits of these practices as far outweighing the concerns. Among the study's findings, departments reported that flexible work schedules:

- *92% improve moral and support work and family issues
- *65% improve customer service and reduce unscheduled absences
- *59% reduce employee turnover
- *50% enhance recruitment
- *47% reduced sick leave
- *45% improved performance

The impetus for the survey is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), a local ordinance implemented in San Francisco in 1998. San Francisco was the first U.S. city to adopt the ordinance, which redefines bias and discrimination from a human rights approach. A recurrent issue in CEDAW's local implementation has been the need for both men and women to consistently balance the demands of work and life.

"This is a positive step forward in analyzing how work-life options are important tools for benefiting the City, its employees, and the citizens of San Francisco," said Department on the Status of Women Interim Director Rosario Navarrete. "Viewing work-life options from this approach helps both employers and employees maximize their time and productivity."

The DOSW is a department of the City and County of San Francisco whose purpose is to ensure women and girls equal economic, social, political and educational opportunities throughout the city. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR

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BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-HIP) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-HIP at (415) 671-0214

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For general information about selling your product or service to the City, go to the Purchasing Department's website at <http://www.ci.sanfrancisco.ca.us/purchase>. Click on "Business Information," and then click on "Getting Started Selling to the City." For more information, call (415) 554-6743.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253725

The following person(s) are doing business as: KAM Physical Therapy And Doula Services, 447 42nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Anne Marie Kelli Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/21/01. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540097

In the Matter of the Application of Rena Naomi Stofve for change of Name. The application of Rena Naomi Stofve, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rena Naomi Stofve has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Levi Max Stofve. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of February at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540096

In the Matter of the Application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) for change of Name. The application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor), for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Cheryl Anna Rowe. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of February at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253686

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunshine Express, 604 Ellis Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tran, Jung T. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/19/01. DEC. 27, JAN. 3, 10, 17, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540090

In the Matter of the Application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez for change of Name. The application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Emmanuel Hernandez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Emmanuel Jacob. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of February at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540102

In the Matter of the Application of Paul James Ramey for change of Name. The application of Paul James Ramey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paul James Ramey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ramzi James al-Hassan Ramey. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253474

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dolls For The Soul, TM, 73 Waller Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nina Reimer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/10/2001. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254120

The following person(s) are doing business as: R.J. Williams Publishing, 923 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rocky J. Williams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/2002. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253599

The following person(s) are doing business as: ChefMaker, 568 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Dolores Silva VP Fin & Admin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/2001. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253810

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wa Yip Trading Company, 731 26th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok P. Zung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/2001. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253782

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gourmet Bay Cafe, 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Supannee Veradejkamhaend. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/27/2001. JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0203495-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Gourmet Bay Cafe. Located at: 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 02, 1996. This business was conducted by: a individual: Apinan Veradejkamhaend JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253876

The following person(s) are doing business as: Earth Angel Escorts, 12 Raleigh, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Victor Manuel Suarez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253873

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gigler's Auto Body Shop, 3252 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-1917. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard A. Gigler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253935

The following person(s) are doing business as: Irie 8 Pictures, 2262 Mason Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Loni Weholt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/2002. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254052

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pioneer Builders, 3759 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-5844. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Martocchio Inc. DBA Pioneer Builders, Lido Martocchio- president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 1998. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/2002. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253937

The following person(s) are doing business as: CMC Traffic Control Specialists, 375 Illinois Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Crystal J. Miki. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/14/2002. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002



LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254172

The following person(s) are doing business as: You Can Earn @ Home, 639 Diamond Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3225. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Franklin A. Newhouse. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253580

The following person(s) are doing business as: Terrance Mitchell Thibideaux, 231 States Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terrance Mitchell Thibideaux (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/2001. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254175

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Design Partnership, 1412 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed John S. Boerger and John W. Kilbre. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 12, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002. JAN. 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

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LOFT Coordinator: The LOFT (Larkin Opportunities For Transition) is a new 12-bed transitional living facility designed to meet the unique needs of underage homeless youth in San Francisco. The LOFT places a strong emphasis on career planning and assessment, and on the development of workforce readiness skills necessary for transition to economic self-sufficiency. MSW strongly preferred, MA in related field accepted. Minimum of three years working with adolescents required. Two years of supervisory experience preferred. Primary responsibilities include: management of the day-to-day operations of the LOFT Program, which include supervision of staff, volunteers, interns; development and implementation of program services; grants management; and management of budgets and finances. Provide overall clinical supervision to the program team. Liaison to Medical Clinic, Homeless Youth Network Program, Department of Human Services Homeless Team. Salary range is \$41-43K, DOE.

ATI Coordinator: A key player in the Overage Youth portion of our continuum of services, specifically for the direction and growth of our Avenues to Independence Program (ATI), serving homeless and runaway youth ages 18-22. Responsibilities include: career and job readiness assessment, management for high functioning homeless and runaway youth, staff supervision (6-8 counselors), management of day-to-day operations of the program including grants management, management of budgets and finances. ATI is an innovative employment career development program, housed in a 14 bed transitional living facility. Energetic and creative thinker is a must! Three years of youth program management, and experience with homeless and runaway youth required. Masters in related field, preferably MSW. \$41-45K DOE.

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MAY 13-19, 2002

A Letter to the Community -

AIDS/LifeCycle™ is open for registration and free of legal uncertainty! This week, the Los Angeles Superior Court ruled in favor of **AIDS/LifeCycle**, the HIV/AIDS fundraising event being co-produced by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. The court rejected the attempt by Pallotta TeamWorks, a for-profit production company that produces the California AIDS Ride, to stop **AIDS/LifeCycle**. While we are reluctant to spend much time on what is now, fortunately, in the past, misinformation about what led up to the lawsuit needs some correction.

Our decision to end our relationship with Pallotta TeamWorks and to create **AIDS/LifeCycle** was not made lightly. It was the result of many months of negotiations during which we attempted to assure that future events could not be a repeat of California AIDS Ride 8. That event was characterized by large unapproved cost-overruns, intense promotion of Pallotta TeamWorks and a general shift of focus which put our primary concern - HIV and AIDS - on the back burner. The cost of fundraising increased over two years from below 35 cents of each dollar raised to nearly 50 cents of every dollar raised. In the past year alone, this cost increase represented a loss of nearly \$1 million that should have gone to HIV and AIDS services.

We negotiated in good faith with Pallotta TeamWorks over many months to correct these problems, however they were unwilling to accept reasonable cost control provisions that we believed were necessary to assure a successful event in 2002. Unable to reach agreement, we chose not to continue our relationship and instead launched **AIDS/LifeCycle**. In response, Pallotta TeamWorks filed its lawsuit to stop our event, a legal maneuver that has failed. Additional information on this history is available on our website at www.sfaf.org.

We now turn our attention to the future. We are thrilled to be moving forward with **AIDS/LifeCycle**. We are deeply grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from riders, donors, volunteers and other community members. To those of you who have already signed up for **AIDS/LifeCycle**, your confidence and commitment are greatly appreciated. Due to your support our current registrations are right on track with our projections.

And to those of you who have been waiting for the court ruling before making a decision to join **AIDS/LifeCycle**, we hope the news of our legal victory will energize you to join the excitement of this new event.

Since October, planning for **AIDS/LifeCycle** has moved forward to ensure an event that will inspire and challenge every participant - both physically and emotionally. **AIDS/LifeCycle** will be a fully supported event with hot showers, healthy meals, tents, and, yes, participation in an inspiring community of caring people cycling together for a week down the beautiful state of California - all on behalf of the same cause - an end to AIDS.

You can help make this inaugural event be a phenomenal success, by registering today at or calling us at **1-866-BIKE4AIDS**. And then get on that bike and start training!!!

We invite you to join the excitement and look forward to riding with you.

Sincerely yours,

Pat Christen

Pat Christen
Executive Director
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Gwenn A. Baldwin

Gwenn A. Baldwin
Executive Director
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AIDS/LifeCycle is the official cycling event of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center.
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Advance word on pioneering dance
Anna Halprin, Eiko & Koma in 'Be With,'
'Cavewomen 2000' at Dance Mission.

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Original in Oakland
Out lesbian jazz artist
Patricia Barber at Yoshi's.

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Rebel rebel
'Rebel Without a Cause'
at the Castro Theatre.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 3 • 17 January 2002



Anthony LaPaglia in *Lantana*

Kisses with Hershey, pals with LaPaglia

Barbara Hershey and Anthony LaPaglia test their trust in 'Lantana'

by David Lamble

Early in *Lantana*, a very adult psychological thriller from Australia, Patrick, a youngish gay man, gets a nasty lecture from his shrink, Valerie (Barbara Hershey). She's upset with him because he's seeing a married man. Sitting across from me in a fancy suite at the Prescott Hotel, a very radiant Barbara Hershey stresses that her character is not homophobic—rather, she's upset at what becomes a core issue in *Lantana*, a betrayal of trust.

"That disturbs her, the betrayal. It isn't that the guy is gay, that doesn't upset her at all. It's that he's part of a betrayal, because she suspects her own husband [John] of it. John keeps pushing her away, and keeps not wanting to pick her up after work. Finally, she thinks her husband might be the man [whom Patrick is seeing]. It gets very personal for her."

Hershey's psychiatrist character is, in a way, the film's touchstone. Several of her female clients seek reassurance from Valerie about the viability of their marriages, entirely ignorant of just how precarious hers has become, both in her eyes and that of her husband (Geoffrey Rush). When Valerie suddenly disappears, suspicion of a foul

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Daddy & Papa, by Bay Area filmmaker Johnny Symons, is part of the documentary competition at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.



A saner Sundance?

Report from Park City, Utah

by Glen Helfand

There's something surreal about being at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Where else can you enter a town so different from your own, yet filled with people you recognize both from your life and from the movie screen? Dazed and exhausted from having to catch an early morning flight, and from the dehydrating winter air, I stumbled into the festival headquarters to get oriented. It was a flummoxing experience, as it takes some time to figure out what the hell's going on up here, much less get into the indie industry groove. That, however, happened within the first 15 minutes. On the way into the building, I bumped into Pippi Lovestocking, clad out of drag in an official orange festival parka. He happens to be working here in the transport department. "See you at *The Cockettes* party," he said after a brief chat.

Mere moments later, while I was talking to a publicist in a hotel suite office, who should stride in but Javier Bardem, a man who strikes as smoldering a presence in real life as he does on screen. I pretended he was just some guy there to do business. And at Sundance, that's exactly what he is—he's doing his promotional duty as the star of John Malkovich's di-

rectorial debut, an ambitious, highbrow (and ultimately disappointing) political thriller called *The Dancer Upstairs*. Like many of the films here, it deals with difficult subject matter—in this case, terrorism—that makes it a slightly difficult sell.

The scent of distributor deals seems less present than at last year's proceedings, and the word on the snow-covered streets is that Sundance 2002 is a more low-key affair than 2001. But then again, what isn't, these tumultuous days? It's difficult to tell if it's the impending Olympics, which are indicated by various construction sites and temporary press structures high on scaffolds above the ski slopes, or the uncertain economy that's giving the festival a scrappier flavor, but frankly, the down-scaled, sober tone is a saner climate in which to take in the overwhelming amount of cinema and socializing.

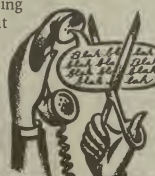
Brunch break

"There aren't even that many queer films in the festival," Jenni Olson tells me at the PlanetOut and OutFest-sponsored, sixth annual Queer Brunch on Sunday morning. There's nothing with the market appeal of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, last year's Sun-

page 35 ►

by Roberto Friedman
and Zeus Tory

Out at the **San Francisco Zoo**, our city bonds sure have built some terrific habitats for penguins, prairie dogs and meerkats, but when we visited last week, our favorite holding pens were the ones filled with construction workers. The sign said not to throw peanuts at them, and we kept missing their feeding times, but we did get to watch them at work and at play. We wanted a few of the specimens to take a plunge in the polar bear pool, but they were busy with their tools. Adult admission is only \$7 with a Muni FastPass.



Out There

At the opening of *Women Artists: Their Work and Influence, 1950s-70s* at **Paule Anglim Gallery** last week, Out There saw *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* author **Rebecca Solnit** chatting it up with NYC artist **Nayland Blake**. Blake was back in his old hometown to teach a two-week intensive course at SF Art Institute, where the students are "shocked that I expect them to work!" Anglim's show's title may promise a lot, but it delivers, with work from artists of the stature of **Louise Bourgeois**, **Eva Hesse**, **Yoko Ono** and **Agnes Martin**. Through Feb. 2, 14 Geary St.

At nearby **Rena Bransten Gallery**, *Dust to Dust*, a show of

new color work by NYC photographer **Bill Jacobson**, and *Before & After*, new paintings by veteran California artist **William T. Wiley**, both share a consideration of the events of Sept. 11. Wiley puzzles out the whys and wherefores of the assault on the towers graphically and with language. His large, inspired canvases don't end with those dramatic events; their subjects include DNA testing and the anti-globalization riots in Genoa, Italy. The artist is clearly on some kind of a roll.

Jacobson was on the street that famous day in Lower Manhattan, and his photographs of people fleeing the dustclouds are like something out of our collective nightmare. They're large, moody prints, out of focus, everything blurred so that light and shadow become abstract. Jacobson's pictures are gorgeously aesthetic, but they resonate with documentary reality in very clear ways. Through Feb. 9, 77 Geary St.

Scene stir

Were you spotted at the **Copenhagen** openhanging last week, taking in all the quantum physics, imitating **Bohr** and **Heisenberg**, milling around vogueishly in the Curran Theatre's tiny lobby? Were you making the scene at Davies Hall dur-



William T. Wiley, "What are the Odds & the Trussed in the Symbolic," 2001, at the Rena Bransten Gallery

ing conductor **Ingo Metzmacher**'s confident debut at the San Francisco Symphony podium, when handsome yet sensitive vio-

lin virtuoso **Joshua Bell** had his way with the **Bernstein Serenade**? Were you there for old **Pixie Frank Black**'s odd set at Slim's,

opening for veteran headliner **Graham Parker**? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you might well be lurking in an item for Out There, and welcome to our world.

The San Francisco Symphony and its musical director **Michael Tilson Thomas** are justifiably proud of their upcoming release on Sony Classical of **Gustav Mahler's** Symphony No. 6 ("Tragic"). These are recordings of

the concerts last fall, Sept. 12-15, when it almost seemed as if Mahler had written the masterpiece as an apt reflection of our own thoughts that week, when the SF Symphony wisely opted to go on with its subscription concerts. The two great, percussive crashes in the symphony like the towers' collapse?

Mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**, mezzo-soprano **Catherine Cook**, and composer **Jake Heggie** will make an appearance at Virgin Megastore (2 Stockton St.) on Friday, January 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. They'll be signing copies of the recently released CD of Heggie and **Terrence McNally's** *Dead Man Walking*, based on the award-winning book by **Sister Helen Prejean**. The recording was taped live during the SF Opera's world premiere production last fall.

Now that all the trial balloons have been floated about an all-gay cable channel, we find ourselves wondering what all the hullabaloo is about. As one industry insider observed in **Maureen Dowd's** *New York Times* column last week, there already is an all-gay channel, and it's called NBC. Ironically, NBC is also now a cable channel in SF, where non-Pay TVers have seen the giggly

gays of *Will & Grace* and the coded homos of *Frasier* disappear into the void. Doesn't matter; *Will* (**Eric McCormack**) still can't get a date with a man, and *Frasier* (**Kelsey Grammer**) apparently won't try. We don't miss them.

Fresh Prince

From Petrópolis, Brazil comes the news that an heir to the Brazilian monarchy, 22-year-old **Pedro Tiago Bourbon Orleães e Bragança**, is in lots of hot water for stealing a set of antique porcelain dishware from his aunt, **Cristina Bourbon Orleães e Bragança**.

Even though the royal dishes originally were the property of the Prince's great-great-grandfather, the last emperor of Brazil, **Pedro II**, they did technically belong to the Princess Cristina. Pedro Tiago admitted that he took the dishes and sold them to an antique dealer, but said he found them in the garage of the palace where two branches of the royal family live, the **Grão Pará Palace**, where presumably they were just gathering dust. Besides, what prince (or queen) doesn't feel the need to put on a garage sale every once in a while? Pedro Tiago has our sympathies, but only if he uses the proceeds from the dishes for general mischief-making. That's what OT'd do.

Met Ina an item

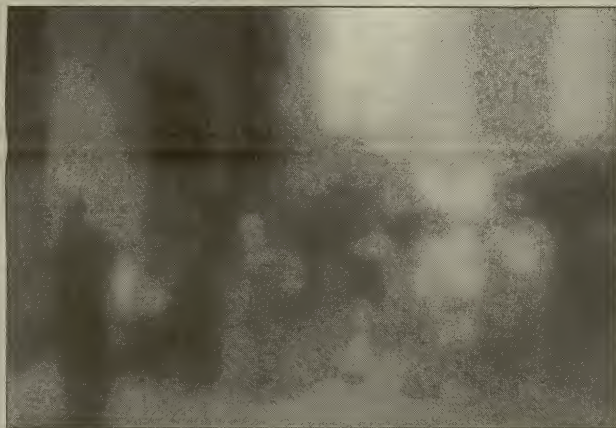
Some of us have moved on from the fact that 2002 is a rare palindromic year. Whole phrases that are palindromes — they read the same forwards and backwards — are much more clever. You probably already know all the famous ones like, "Madam, I'm Adam," and, "A man. A plan. A canal. Panama!"

Now comes news of a new collection of impressive palindromes, including the title of the 1991 **Soundgarden** EP *Satan, Oscillate My Metallic Sonatas*, and a cunning message to overworked waitstaff: "Stressed? No tips? Spit on desserts." The book by palindrome collector **Jon Agee** has the timeless palindromic title *Go Hang a Salam! I'm a Lasagna Hog!*, and the *Los Angeles Times* supplements its coverage with a cartoon illustrating the complaint, "Mr. Owl ate my metal worm!" ▼

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OPERA

Reviving the 'Widow'

Frederica von Stade sparkles in SF Opera production

by Stephanie von Buchau

Since her operatic debut in the mid-'70s, Frederica von Stade has displayed a distinctive mezzo-soprano sound, pristine musicianship, facility with languages, bags of charm, and a sunny, uncomplicated stage presence. For years, she tended to generalize a character agreeably, but not very deeply. It wasn't until she matured — marriage, motherhood, an acrimonious divorce

partner, Rodney Gilfry, nearly make this tasteless *olla podrida* palatable.

Romper room

It was suggested that improvements in pace and taste would be instituted in this latest incarnation of an elephantine Mansouri "show," but I didn't see or hear them. It is still three-and-a-half grueling hours to sit through — at least 90 minutes too much of a bad thing. It still suffers from Wendy Wasserstein's witless script

mon sense, self-knowledge and the ability to make herself look and sound perfect for the part.

She's the right age. She understands autumnal regret. She's slender and pretty and looks good even in that hideous second act get-up that Thierry Bosquet has imagined for Pontevédrian national dress. (Nobody should be forced to wear turquoise on stage.) She sings quite wonderfully, knowing where to husband her resources and where to let go. I thought her top voice, which has

written for a character tenor, for that is the way he sings it — as lightly as possible, caressing the names of the grisettes rather than shouting them forcefully as his predecessor did. He even employs a few very effective falsetto notes. If American musical comedy were still a great art instead of an amplified mess, Gilfry would be the finest Curly or Billy Bigelow who ever lived. As it is, he's a hell of a sexy Danilo, and von Stade's eagerness to get him to declare himself was surely seconded by everyone in the audience. When they are canoodling, this *Merry Widow* could almost be taken for what it should be, Franz Léhar's masterful *Die lustige Witwe*. ▼



Flicka: a magical performance.



Rodney Gilfry (Danilo), in SF Opera's *The Merry Widow*, believes in giving 110 percent.

and a happy second marriage — that "Flicka," as everybody calls her, developed a strikingly specific, emotionally charged acting style.

San Francisco has been the lucky witness as von Stade created the oversexed, less-than-ethical Mme. de Merteuil in Conrad Susa's *The Dangerous Liaisons* and the pathetic Mrs. De Rocher in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. If they gave Oscars for opera, these were Academy Award performances, as raw and truthful as they were exquisitely sung. Both roles were gifts to Flicka from Lotfi Mansouri, then General Director of the San Francisco Opera.

When someone has presented you with a pair of sparkling diamonds, you have to forgive him if he slips a lump of coal in your shoe. Actually, I have to forgive him, for von Stade seems to be having the time of her life as Anna Glawari in Mansouri's beached whale of a *Merry Widow*, revived last week with three new singers in leading roles. Isabel Bayrakdarian is a little hard-edged as Valencienne, but von Stade and her new

and Christopher Hassall's jejune lyrics. It still exhibits those lengthy, egregious musical interpolations to one of the most exquisite operetta scores ever written: the ballet in Act III, where none exists; the aria for Njegus that Elijah Chester allegedly sings (I couldn't hear him half the time); the transformation of Valencienne's deliciously naughty "grisette" number into a coarse, vulgar romp for a "Broadway star" you've never heard of (and hope never to hear again); and the *Paganini* aria that Richard Bonynge added for Joan Sutherland in 1981 that does not work without her glittering coloratura.

Von Stade's predecessor, Yvonne Kenni, a soprano, made a game but fruitless stab at singing this piece with decorations and fireworks. It just diminished her otherwise solid portrayal. By the time von Stade gets to it, she's earned so much love and goodwill that her merely singing it straight makes us happy. She doesn't attempt anything Sutherlandish, but then her whole approach to the *Widow* is one of great com-

been problematical recently, was in good shape, allowing her (even though the arias are taken down a step) to float a convincing high note at the end of the "Viljalied" which did not compromise a magical musical performance up to that point.

Best of all, she and Gilfry had chemistry up the wazoo. *The Merry Widow*, however much Mansouri and gang think it is a negligible romp in which the composer comes in dead last, is really one of the most beautiful romantic scores ever written for the stage. Yes, the melodies are kitschy, but so is romance — reality has nothing to do with it. And the only thing that works in this production is the romantic music. We already know that Gilfry is a hunk, a tall, well-built baritone who keeps himself in tip-top shape and believes in giving 110 percent. He's like an athlete that way — he is only interested in entertaining you by winning the game.

He's really not a great opera singer — the voice is serviceable at best. But he is smart and canny; I'll bet he knows that Danilo was

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Uncertainty principle

'Copenhagen' at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

It's a risky business, putting part of the audience on stage at *Copenhagen*. Theatergoers seated in the main auditorium are watching both the play and a small group of people who are also watching the play. It's risky because a dozing or restless spectator is clearly visible to most of the audience, and if all the onstage seats are not filled after intermission, that too is glaringly obvious.

And it's riskier still because this observed congregation is dealing with, as are the (unseen) rest of us, the demanding universe conjured by playwright Michael Frayn. Best known for the backstage farce *Noises Off*, Frayn is now providing an intimate, partly-true, partly-conjectured look at how the atomic bomb came to be built first by the Americans, rather than the German Nazis.

Unlike the mathematically-themed *Proof*, which preceded *Copenhagen* into the Curran Theatre, Frayn's play doesn't shy away from invoking the language, theories, and details of the science of physics. You'll get know about, and maybe even understand, the differences between uranium 235 and uranium 238, though you may need to consult the *Playbill* insert to grasp some of the other concepts bandied about by a pair of physicists representing the two sides in the atomic race.

Niels Bohr, a Dane, and the

younger Werner Heisenberg, a German, were said to be like father and son in the 1920s as they pushed the limits of known physics. But World War II and the German occupation of Denmark not surprisingly soured that relationship. Such was the renown of these two men in the science world that after Heisenberg traveled to Copenhagen in 1941 to visit Bohr and his wife, speculation swirled for decades over its mysterious purpose.

Still, for most of us, it is an arcane world that Frayn has entered as he offers his scenario on this meeting, replayed by the characters from a kind of limbo after their death. While it's unlikely that many theatergoers would attack a friend for not accepting the concept of complementarity, Frayn's characters are passionate about such issues.

For an audience, that can be more intriguing than involving. But ultimately these debates lead to flashes of humanity as these two men look back on what might have been (an atomic bomb dropped on London) and what did happen (Hiroshima). The quest for knowledge, once viewed as an absolute for scientists like Bohr and Heisenberg, is now seen as having enormous moral consequences.

Director Michael Blakemore, recreating his London and Broadway staging for the tour, has placed the three characters on a stage bare except for three chairs. Peter J. Davison's set primarily consists of wood-paneled tiers in which the

on-stage audience peers down on the actors as if part of a tribunal.

It's an austere approach, but appropriate to material that still provides opportunities for the three performers to erupt with emotion. Len Cariou, Broadway's original Sweeney Todd, is a commanding presence as Niels Bohr, if sometimes given to out-sized reactions. Handsome Hank Stratton is effective if not as memorable as the younger Heisenberg, and Mariette Hartley offers a stoic intensity as Bohr's concerned wife Margrethe.

Copenhagen is a play that can be appreciated even as it fends off a full embrace. You can also appreciate the



Copenhagen: flashes of humanity and the science of physics.

efforts of the actors, who look positively drained at the final curtain. For both performers and audiences, this is a play that challenges the traditional notions of enjoyment. ▼

Copenhagen will run at the Curran Theatre through Feb. 3. Tickets are \$34-\$68. For more information, please call (415) 512-7770.

Female persuasion

'Women on the Way' at Venue 9

by Richard Dodds

From Betty Crocker on acid to a lesbian Groucho Marx, the annual Women on the Way Festival will offer up a singular selection of performances in the intimate confines of Venue 9. The 2002 festival begins Jan. 17, and the rotating program of theater, comedy, performance poetry, and dance will continue through Feb. 3.

Chosen by Mary Alice Fry,

artistic director of Footloose, the slate is comprised both of premieres and past favorites. Through its various offerings, including the ongoing Women's Work play development program and the Women on the Way series, Fry estimates that more than 600 women artists have been featured by Footloose since 1996.

Here is a look at the artists and their offerings that make up this year's Women on the Way Festival. All shows, presented as part of changing double bills, begin at 8 p.m.

ber of the cast of five women. Performances Jan. 17, 19, 25, Feb. 3.

• *The Things I've Done for Love* features Cathy Roy, a multifaceted personality described as "Betty Crocker on acid," in a bawdy look at the eternal search for Mr. Right. Performances Jan. 24, Feb. 2, 3.

• *Date Me* is a one-woman, multi-character play starring writer-director Eleanor Scott that takes a comic look at the horrors of dating. Performances Jan. 24, 25, Feb. 1.

• *Nothing is Sacred* asks, among other things, if there is recovery from addiction to God and masturbation. Writer-performer Erica Sodos, a professional clown under the name Rosy Rosebud, uses over-the-top props, audience involvement, and physical comedy in her solo musical comedy. Performances Jan. 19, 27, 31.

• *World Affairs* offers performance poets Opal Palmer Adisa and Deborah major, also known as the Daughters of Yam, in a program that blends dialogue, cross monologues, harmonic voices, and original music performed by cellist Kash Killion. Performances Jan. 18, 31, Feb. 2.

• Dance Repertory/San Francisco will perform contemporary works by choreographers Brenda Daniels (*3 Dumb Love Songs*), Christine Cali (*Rye Pie*), and Emma Huckabay (*The Veil*). Performances Jan. 26, 27, Feb. 1, 2. On Jan. 26 & 27, Strong Current Dance Company will join the bill with *Delicate Choice*, while Huckabay McAllister Dance will present *Nina* on Feb. 1 & 2.

Tickets to the Women on the Way Festival are \$15. More information is available at www.venue9.com or at 289-2000. ▼



Tina D'Elia goes Marxist.

• *Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup* is one of the festival's returning favorites. In this one-woman comedy, Tina D'Elia portrays a Latina lesbian who awakens one day to find she has been transformed into Groucho Marx. Performances Jan. 17, 18, 20, 26.

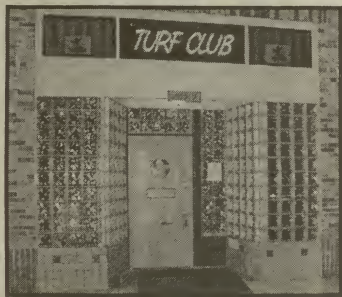
• *How to Be a Secret Agent Girl as Seen on American Television and in Movies* emerged as one of the hits in this past year's Fringe Festival. It's made up of a collection of comic pieces by writer-director Cathleen Daly, who is also a mem-



The cast of Cathleen Daly's *How to Be a Secret Agent Girl*... looks tough.

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THEATRE

Marcus Shelby lights 'The Lights'

Korder's play with music at ODC Theater

by Michael McDonagh

Urban angst is a big cliché, and alienation an even bigger one. But great stuff has come out of it, like Sartre's plays, Beckett's tragicomedies, the kitchen-sink realism of Osborne and Inge, and film noir. Any playwright, especially a young one, faces this stiff competition. New York-born Howard Korder certainly does. His *The Lights*, first produced at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theater in 1993 and now playing at ODC Theater, is a deft, energetic work with a certain gritty charm (there's more swearing than in a Michael Mann film.) The dialogue is snappy and rings true, and Korder, who start-

ed out as an actor, clearly knows what works on stage. But he doesn't seem capable, at least here, of invigorating the old, universal themes of love, loneliness, and our all-too-human search for connection and transcendence. Nothing seems unbearably fresh or downright shocking.

Maybe it's Korder's youth (he's 44) or the easy solutions he found when working on the TV sitcom *Kate and Allie* in the mid-'80s which give *The Lights* its mostly facile charm. But director Val Hendrickson has clearly found an inspired ally in composer-bassist-bandleader Marcus Shelby, whose orchestra plays onstage throughout and is fully integrated into the theatrical context. And it certainly helps that their working rela-

tionship has extended over several projects. Shelby's music defines and supports a gifted cast of young characters/actors — Rose (Lara Bruckmann), Lillian (Areta Wong) and Fredric (Matthew Chavez) — struggling to find themselves in an unnamed metropolis obviously modeled on New York, who suffer from the peculiar American malady (yes, we think it's a national trait) of not being able to express their deeper feelings. In a culture where everyone strikes a pose to survive (and sees their shrink), you can hardly blame them.

Verve ball

The expressive content of the piece thus naturally falls to Shelby, whose music says what the characters can't, or clumsily hint at. His score can take center stage or add a quiet, though not quite neutral atmosphere, and he's mastered both kinds of communication. Act I, which Hendrickson's actors deliver as a sort of frantic foxtrot, is followed by the slow waltz of Act II. Shelby's expert 15-piece band of brass, reeds, drums, piano, and bass, who have recorded the work on the composer's Noir Records, play it here with verve. Shelby has given them a wealth of material to perform — hard-driving music with tonal clashes, blues-drenched stuff, hot and cool unisons, walking bass passages, and sections derived from phrases in the play — and



Composer/bassist/bandleader Marcus Shelby plays onstage throughout.

the voicings, though distinctly his, are clearly in the Ellington mode. His pianist Matt Clark gets some superbly expressive, wandering harmonies to play in Act II, which veers, or rather drops, into melodrama. Though ably performed,

the melodrama seems unclearly motivated from Act I. The indications are there, but the fuse isn't lit. And though life is hardly rational or thoroughly predictable, we do expect some causal sym-

page 35 ►

Quirky lady

Jazz baby Patricia Barber at Yoshi's

by Robert Julian

After her bass and guitar player step onto the stage, Patricia Barber emerges from behind Yoshi's red velvet curtain in her trademark black slacks, black shirt, and black sport coat. She nods to the audience, then crouches over the piano and launches into her opening number, "The Moon," reaching occasionally for a sip from a brandy snifter or a slug of bottled water. A few moments later, she mimes toward a ringside table and succeeds in retrieving a cocktail napkin from an audience member in order to blow her nose.

With her second number, a Thelonious Monk instrumental, Barber reaches over her sheet music and into the top of her Steinway concert grand piano to pluck the strings of the piano with her left hand while tickling the ivories with her right. And her third number, "Bumper to Bumper," grooves into a Latin beat with Barber providing lyrical scatting that makes her sound like a cross between Ella Fitzgerald and The Cocteau Twins. This is not your average jazz baby.

It's difficult to categorize the work of Patricia Barber, and that is one of her great strengths as a performing artist. This Chicago native recalls many other artists, including, at times, Keith Jarrett, Diana Krall, and Joni Mitchell. The latter is most present in Barber's sixth number, "The Fire," an ode to an unhappily married woman pretending to be the perfect wife. Yet Barber remains a true original. This, however, is not enough to ensure popular success.

Her opening set last week at Yoshi's was similar in content and style to the engagement she played two months ago at San Francisco's Noe Valley Ministry. But these live performances, and her most recent CD, *Nightclub*, do not represent Barber's strongest work (which can be found on her 1998 release, *Modern Cool*). She is detached and cerebral in her performance style, uncompromising and more than a little inaccessible. These qualities may enhance her



Uncompromising: Patricia Barber

artistic integrity, but they are not going to endear her to an audience. There is someone out there, and judging from the applause meter on opening night (there was no encore), the audience wants to hear more songs like Barber's "Post Modern Blues," and fewer pieces like Chick Corea's instrumental "Return to Forever."

Out in jazz

It is worth noting that Patricia Barber is an "out" lesbian, working in a musical genre that has kept the contributions of gay and lesbian performers in the closet. It's difficult to understand why jazz has been such an off-limits area for homosexuals. Is it because jazz musicians are so hip that they wouldn't bother to discuss something as musically insignificant as sexual orientation? Or is it because homophobia is so rampant among jazz fans that performers fear coming out of the closet? This is a phenomenon that deserves further exploration.

Although Barber's current work is not as user-friendly as one might hope, she is an extremely talented musician, still in the early years of her career. Barber is someone to watch. And as for Yoshi's, it is simply one of the best venues in the Bay Area to hear any live performer — well worth the brief trip across the Bay to Oakland's Jack London Square. ▼



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Pioneers of movement

Anna Halprin, Eiko & Koma, Krissy Keefer to perform this weekend

by Michael Wade Simpson

There is something about Left Coast women, at least in the dance field. Far away from the insular scene in New York City, these choreographers can create, over many years, work that is groundbreaking and totally unique, whether it has a feminist slant or not. Density and darkness prevail in much of the contemporary work back East, and the dancers are often technically superb in a cookie-cutter kind of way. In San Francisco, however, the best work and the people who dance it are wild and disparate in style, not easy to label or even sometimes to take on the road. Two of these pioneers, Anna Halprin and Krissy Keefer, offer examples of this great idiosyncrasy at local venues starting this weekend.

Krissy Keefer says her Republican relatives back East would be horrified by her latest piece, *Cavewomen 2000*, a site-specific work that moves the audience from the street and through different rooms at Dance Mission studios, where a variety of environments have been created with lighting, scenic design, music and movement. Thematically, the piece touches on everything from the historical yoginis of India and Tibet, to the politics of the artist evictees of San Francisco, to the current war and the caves of Kabul. Chaos, confusion, feminism, humor and dance collide throughout, according to Keefer, along with the addition of a softer, spiritual aspect that is new for the all-woman Dance Brigade and for Keefer. What does this add up to? "Healing," she said in an interview. For women viewers in



Choreographer Krissy Keefer of Dance Brigade

particular, it is cathartic to see these strong and expressive female dancers having their say. "All the time, women say, 'Thank you for saying what I feel but can't express,'" Keefer said.

Halprin, the 82-year-old mother of the mind-body movement, is appearing at Yerba Buena Center this weekend in her first-ever collaboration with other choreographers. In *Be With*, a piece commissioned by the Kennedy Center, Eiko & Koma, a Japanese husband-and-wife duo who have been making works in the United States since 1977, were charged by the commission to create a work with another dance artist. They chose Halprin.

The collaboration was challenging on a number of levels, according to Halprin. For one thing, the artists live on opposite ends of the country and were able to spend only four 3-day sessions together to create the work. Beyond that, the "struggle to find a commonality," as

Halprin put it, "is still in process." What results is a work that shifts all the artists involved into new terrain.

From the outset, Halprin made it clear to her collaborators, who have worked so closely for so long that they almost seem to be one organism on stage, that they could never dance together in this piece. The duets would be Halprin and Eiko, Halprin and Koma, or all three dancing together. And so the process began. Music for the piece was created and will be performed live by cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, formerly of Kronos Quartet.

Halprin, Eiko & Koma met in Halprin's studio, perched on a hillside in Marin County, featuring windows on three sides, and a rust-colored fourth wall. The color of the wall so affected the Japanese artists that they recreated it for the stage, where the piece becomes a kind of journey along the wall. Even the costuming, gauzy painted cheesecloth, was suggested by the rust-colored surface.

If Keefer's work is athletic and political, with strong lesbians and others bringing taiko drumming and martial arts into their dance/theatrework, Eiko & Koma are polar opposites, and Halprin falls somewhere in the middle. Halprin was controversial with her racially mixed dance company known for taking their clothes off on the stages of the world during the '60s. But her work, like Keefer's, evolved to take political and social concerns into its scope. After she was diagnosed with cancer in her 50s, Halprin basically cured herself using a process including the Gestalt psychological practices developed by Fritz Perls, whom Halprin had studied with. Halprin took some of his ideas and blended



(Left to right): Eiko & Koma, cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, and Anna Halprin, collaborators for *Be With*.

them with her own experience of developing movement based on personal expression and the use of intuitive imagery. Today, 30 years later, Halprin's Tamalpa Institute is a highly regarded training place for movement "therapists," and the artist has taken her theories into practice in the HIV/AIDS community, as well as in the creation of rituals for peace. Thousands of people practice "The Planetary Dance" in various enlightened corners of the world on an ongoing basis.

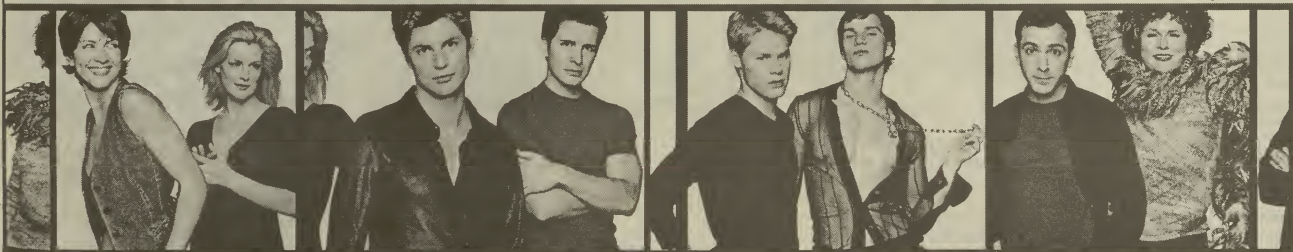
But what does she bring onto the stage? What steps and movements can possibly embody a lifetime of groundbreaking work? Halprin herself admits it's a tricky question, especially when two other artists are involved, each with their own particular aesthetic and set of artistic concerns. "Embracing Earth and accepting death" is how Halprin summed things up.

Eiko & Koma are very much interested in nature as a source, while Halprin's natural awareness of mortality and personal growth fuel her creativity. These ideas will be blended and suspended in the dance of three masters on stage January 17-19. Halprin will also present a solo, *From 5 to 10*, and Eiko & Koma, a piece called *Snow*. ▼

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents Anna Halprin/Eiko & Koma/Joan Jeanrenaud, Jan. 17-19. Free workshops on Sun., Jan. 20. Tickets: www.YerbaBuenaArts.org, (415) 978-ARTS.

Dance Brigade performs in *Cavewomen 2002*, Fri., Sat. & Sun., Jan. 18-27, Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 31-Feb. 2, Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. Tickets: (415) 273-4633.

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TELEVISION

Happy days are here again

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Is Dick Clark running TV again? We ask not because Clark's eerie youthfulness makes us worry about invasion of the body snatchers, but because when he flipped the switch that dropped the ball in Times Square on New Year's Eve, it seems another switch was flipped on network TV. The reruns ended, and September 11 has been set aside as the primary focus of news and talk TV.

We noticed it first on ABC's *Politically Incorrect*. Host Bill Maher has told no jokes since September 11, and every night since the attacks, the focus had been terrorism. The stand-up spots returned with the New Year, and the show's subject matter is now a mix; terrorism is still a topic of discussion, but not the only topic.

Nightline is back to its half-hour format from the wartime hour, with a mix of programming; some nights it's terrorism, but other issues have been raised as well. The first show of the new year? An exploration of spirituality.

The morning shows and the Sunday morning pundit fests have also rotated their attention. Remember Congress? Apparently so have they. Pre-9-11 concerns are gradually making their way back into the public eye via the airwaves, and it's no longer all Afghanistan, all the time.

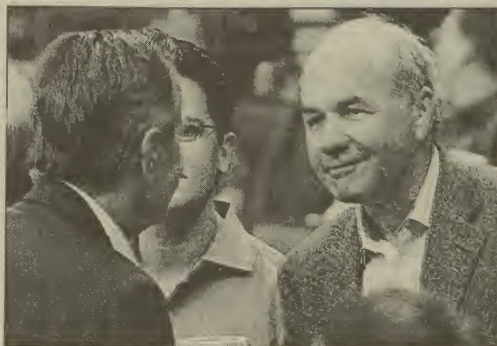
The most pivotal sign of this tectonic shift had to be the return of Bill Clinton to the evening news. Let's face it, few remember Al Gore, but no one has forgotten

Clinton; news programs sneak him into the headlines whenever possible. So when Clinton's dog Buddy was killed by a car, the sad tale became a breaking news story, then a headline, with each network trotting out footage of Bill and Buddy from the dark Lewinsky days when it seemed Buddy was Bill's only friend in Washington. Clips of the stand-offs between Socks the cat (the first First Pet, who got sent to Coventry when the Clintons left Washington because he never learned to love the dog) and the playfully aggressive Buddy on the White House lawn were aired. Clinton said he had lost a most loyal friend.

NBC explored the issue of presidential dogs in depth, raising the ghosts of Nixon's Checkers speech and LBJ pulling his beagles up by the ears. Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin explained the importance of animals in the White House: it makes the President more human. Goodwin is right; those scenes of an obviously joyful Clinton playing with his young dog seemed so innocent. Could we ever have imagined using the words "Clinton" and "innocent" in the same sentence pre-9-11? We are so changed.

Into the void

Yes, when dogs and Clinton are back in the news, it's business as usual, even as they build the tourist observation decks at Ground Zero. Except it isn't exactly business as usual because war hasn't improved an eviscerated economy. Scandal has finally touched the post-terrorism Presi-



Enron CEO Ken Lay (right) with George W. Bush.

dency as the Enron debacle hit the news big this week. It seems Enron CEO Ken Lay made a few calls to his buddies in the Bush Cabinet when the company stock was about to plummet from \$84 a share to 26 cents, taking the life-savings of thousands (except the top brass) into the void. But as Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill said dismissively during a rather fierce round of questions from *Good Morning America*'s Charlie Gibson, he couldn't be bothered with every little thing when he was helping to "prosecute the war on terrorism." Nor could he be expected to let the President know that Bush's largest campaign contributor was about to go belly-up in the biggest bankruptcy suit in American history. This kind of arrogance should remind Americans just where the Bush team falls when it comes to the "little guy." Bush was quick to attempt damage control, but Enron may be what knocks Bush off the approval high he's ridden since 9-11.

Celebs are also back in the new year. Tom Cruise showed up at

The View, then his first TV appearance on *Letterman* in 13 years. No discussion of those pesky queer rumors, but no plans to wed new public squeeze Penelope Cruz, either.

Meanwhile, cutiepie Vassar grad and soccer player Ethan Zohn became the first Jew to win *Survivor* in the surprise finale last week. We loved *Survivor* Africa. The contest this time was well-played from beginning to end. The best strategist, Lex from Santa Cruz, strategized himself into third place, but Ethan, our fave from Day 1, played with total integrity and strong skills. Plus he's adorable and sexy, though we did find Lex's massive tattoos quite cool.

Survivor Africa raised the issue of AIDS on the continent. One reward challenge won Lex an SUV, and the opportunity to distribute AIDS meds and supplies for testing to a bush hospital near the *Survivor* site. Second-place winner Kim Johnson, the oldest contestant, acknowledged stories about AIDS in Africa had made such an impact on her that she

and other members of her team had decided to work on a project to raise funds and awareness. Who says TV can't be entertaining and informative?

Back in black

VCR Alerts: All week *The Today Show* celebrates its 50th anniversary on the air with clips from the old and not-so-old days. It's great stuff for fans of historic TV, and Katie and Matt are just so cute. Also all week: Erica Kane stands trial on *All My Children* for the murder of her lesbian daughter's lover. Montel Williams is guesting as the judge in the trial, and half of La Kane's jurors are black. For years we have been wondering where all the African Americans were in Pine Valley. Now we know—they're the only ones who can't get out of jury duty!

The Golden Globe Awards air on NBC Sunday night (Jan. 20.) Always fun, always flashy, and unlike the Oscars, not always predictable, it's one awards show worth tuning in for.

ABC's new reality game show *The Chair* premieres next week. The object: control your heartbeat while being asked questions, just like on a lie detector test. Will guest hosts be John and Patsy Ramsey, and OJ Simpson?

Sunday, Jan. 27, ABC airs the new Stephen King miniseries *Rose Red*. Let us say, without giving anything away, that King fans will not be disappointed (despite a little borrowing from Shirley Jackson's *Haunting of Hill House*). King is a master of the good-child-against-evil-forces genre of horror, and *Rose Red* has its spine-chilling moments, and some fine special effects.

And it's that time again. Been missing the luge? Bobsled teams? Ice dancing? Pull up the Bar-

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Future shock

Sci-fi 'Final' fizzles

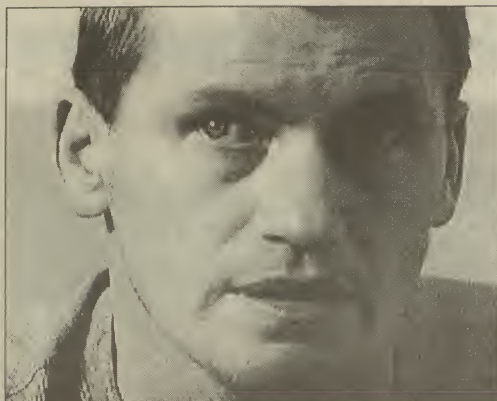
by David Lamble

Why are the initials SF seen as unlucky in LA? Because they stand for the dreaded genre science fiction. Director Steven Spielberg is revered, in part, because he rescued science fiction from its fans. Even the mighty Spielberg recently stubbed his toe, in the posthumous marriage between his sunnier disposition and the more lugubrious heart of Stanley Kubrick resulting in *A.I.*, a filmic allegory about a little boy who finds and loses the love of a new family because he is that perfect science fiction trope, a robot.

The new film *Final*, from first-time director Campbell Scott, better-known for his acting (*Longtime Companion*), starts out promisingly enough. A patient, Bill (Denis Leary), wakes up to discover that he is an involuntary guest at Sumner Hospital in Con-

necticut, complete with a pretty doctor, Ann (Hope Davis), and the promise that he'll be free to go once he's recovered from his "dis-orientation." Bill is delusional, thinks he's a scientific guinea pig, a mortal frozen in 1999 by cryogenic terrorists so that his organs can be harvested in the future (he thinks he's awoken in 2399). For the first 75 minutes, *Final* sizzles with the promise of an alternative *Cuckoo's Nest*, where the doctors aren't Big Nurse, and they sometimes do know best.

Final's best asset is Leary, who once again mixes his roguish charm with the verbal panache honed from years of standup, and gives us a troublesome puppy you'd be willing to housebreak. But just as you've settled into the comfy shag carpet of wondering when Bill will get back his sanity, his pickup, and, dare we say it, the girl, *Final* whips out its real agenda and the cold, cold heart of pure sci-fi. I won't give it away, but suf-



Denis Leary is Bill in Campbell Scott's *Final*.

fice it to say *Final* proves again why *Twilight Zone* stories usually shrivel up on the big screen.

Scott is thoroughly competent at the helm, but *Final* also reminds us of how obsessive actors-turned-directors can be, and how bleak, if pure, their world view. For a more satisfying swig of this blitter brew, rent Tim Roth's apocalyptic family meltdown, *The War Zone*. While you're at the video

store hunt, down Leary's sad/funny turn as an Irish-American car thief, 1998's *Monument Avenue*, a kind of Boston *Mean Streets*. For that matter, just catch Leary, while you still can, on his ABC comedy/detective series *The Job* (Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m.) ▼

Final opens Friday at the Four Star.



Barbara Hershey in *Lantana*

Lantana

◀ Arts cover

deed falls on many in the therapist's network of clients and friends. Not surprisingly, Patrick soon receives a very rude visit from an enraged Sydney homicide detective, Leon Zat (the irrepressible Anthony LaPaglia, in what may be a career-defining role, a romantic lead with a sexy dark side).

Downstairs in his suite at the Prescott (kind of the Love Boat for film publicity interviews in this city), the Australian-born LaPaglia reflects — after a busy decade spent playing American hoods and cops, with an occasional priest thrown in for variety — on just how much of a loose

cannon his Leon is. "You don't even realize he's a cop. You just see a guy who's having an affair, he could be anyone. He could be like a hit man in the beginning, and then you realize, 'Oh my God, this guy's actually a cop.'"

One of *Lantana's* most chilling moments comes as Leon, whom we know to be juggling three female relationships, conducts an emotionally brutal interrogation of Patrick. "Well, he's homophobic. As a result, he unfairly assumes that this guy's sexual proclivity makes him a suitable suspect."

LaPaglia grew up amidst the rough and tumble of a port city, the South Australian capital of Adelaide, and he admits that Aussie mateship has its dark side. "There's something in Australian male culture, there's a certain level of homophobia that plays out. It's an ostensibly male-dominated society, and even though Sydney is probably the second biggest gay community in the world, so there's a large degree of tolerance, there's still an amazing amount of homophobia."

Imagine an Anthony LaPaglia Retrospective. Actually, the idea is not so far-fetched. Since his 1988 debut in the TV bio *Nitti* (right-hand-man to Al Capone), LaPaglia has appeared in more than two dozen films, from the very mainstream, Alan Alda's *Betsy's Wedding*, to the very indie, Steve Buscemi's *Trees Lounge*. A mainstay in ethnic B-films, LaPaglia, who competed with his brothers to see who could imitate Adelaide's polyglot accents, could be from Red Hook, Brooklyn, or the South Side of Chicago.

In *Lantana*, Andrew Bovell's taut adaptation of his play *Speaking in Tongues*, LaPaglia's Leon discovers cracks in his own marriage while investigating the disappearance of his wife's psychiatrist. Leon is an emotionally used-up shell of a man who's a little too good at his job — he deftly removes confidential patient files, including his wife's. The ticking time-bomb of Leon's rage pushes him in and out of an extramarital affair, and finds him lashing out at a fellow jogger and bullying his pot-smoking son. At the same time, he has a nicely collegial relationship with a female cop, and even manages to hear the plead-

ings of his precocious younger son not to let his midlife freak-out destroy their family.

Young pluck

While LaPaglia had to make it to New York to push his way into show business, often crashing theatre auditions and callbacks because he couldn't get an agent, Barbara Hershey grew up in Hollywood always knowing who she was. "The hubris of youth! When I was the littlest girl on Earth, people would say, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' And I would say, 'I'm an actress.' They would say, 'Don't you mean you want to be an actress?' 'No, I'm an actress. I'm just not successful yet.' I said that when I was 8 years old. I never felt it was unnatural. I think I had somewhat of a repressed childhood, and the world where I could really feel free and live was in my play."

Hershey admits to several attempts before she struck film lightning as part of a brilliant young ensemble cast (Richard Thomas, Bruce Davison and Cathy Burns) in Frank Perry's provocative adaptation of *Last Summer*. Evan Hunter's novel about a group of Long Island teenagers experimenting with sex and flirting with bad behavior. The film was so provocative that it originally got an X rating.

LaPaglia concedes that along with his dogged determination to come off as an American actor ("Aussie accents were very unpopular in those days"), sheer luck played a large role in his rapid rise up the B-movie food chain. First there was the miracle of being cast by Alda in *Betsy's Wedding*; then, a series of obscure but valuable early films including the Australian indie, *Brilliant Lies*, where he plays an angry womanizer, foreshadowing many of Leon's quirks and tics. There was also the unforgettable *I Married an Axe Murderer*, not listed in any of my film books, whose producers later regretted their choice of titles. "They felt it confused people."

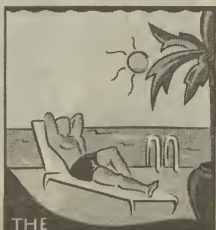
His first blockbuster was the Joel Schumacher-helmed *The Client*, based on a John Grisham bestseller. Schumacher, who has come out in recent years, is in LaPaglia's view a first-rate director. "Schumacher definitively knows what he wants, he

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FILM

Angry youth

James Dean in 'Rebel Without a Cause'

by Tavo Amador

Like Marilyn Monroe and Rudolph Valentino, James Dean's early death assured his immortality. He starred in three movies, had small parts in three others, enjoyed success on stage and television, but his impact on contemporaries and subsequent generations far exceeds his achievements. This posthumous reputation is partly based on his genuine potential as an actor, and partly the result of his representation of the anguish lurking underneath the placid surface of the decade labeled "The Fabulous Fifties."

Dean (1931-1955) followed Montgomery Clift and Marlon Brando among the new breed of nonconformist post-World War II stars. He combined bits of both — Brando's emotional intensity and Clift's sensitivity — but remained unique. His first two starring films cast him as troubled teenagers. The second of these, Nicholas Ray's *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), plays the Castro Theatre on Thursday, January 17, part of its Wide Wide Screen series.

Rebel is an emotional powerhouse despite its inconsistencies, misogyny, and self-pitying tone. It opens with Jim Stark (Dean) being hauled into a police station for public drunkenness. Also there are Judy (Natalie Wood) and John, nicknamed Plato (Sal Mineo). Jim's parents (Jim Backus, Ann Doran) and grandmother take him home, making excuses for his behavior. They have just moved to town, and he is transferring to a new high school. They are upper-middle-class, and confused by their son's wildness.

Plato is questioned about having killed some puppies. His parents are divorced and his usually absent mother has custody, but his primary caretaker is the live-in housekeeper. Judy was picked up for wandering around the streets late at night. She had an argument with her father (William Hopper), who had called her "a tramp!"

Jim, who seems physically and emotionally much older than Judy and Plato, becomes furious when called "chicken" by Judy's boyfriend Buzz (Corey Allen) and other teenagers. This attack on his masculinity leads to a knife-fight. Jim prevails, but accepts Buzz's challenge for a drag race. Each will drive a car towards a cliff to see who jumps out first. Tragically,

this leads to Buzz's accidental death.

Three on a match

Jim tells his parents about the accident, but becomes outraged because they want to hush things up. Alienated by their hypocrisy, unable to talk to the police, he finds solace with Judy and Plato. The latter clearly adores him — it's a beautiful case of puppy love. The three form a *menage à trois*, with Jim assuming the role of the father/husband. They inadvertently become the object of a police search, with more tragic results.

By setting the story at Easter, challenging the traditional definitions of masculinity, painting suburban upper-middle-class lives as barren, and using cinematographer Ernst Haller's vivid colors like a sledgehammer, Ray makes sure we get the symbolism. But the fast-paced film is greater than the sum of its parts, and Ray elicits remarkable performances from Dean and Mineo. Unusual for the time, he didn't hold back on the (barely) unspoken homoeroticism. Bisexual himself, as was Dean, they both reportedly encouraged the teenage Mineo's crush on his co-star, allegedly filming a scene of the two kissing that had to be cut from the final print. (Mineo came out as a gay man in his early 20s, a few years after playing Plato.) Jim's protectiveness is so gentle and Plato's adoration so charged that their scenes are riveting. Jim's pained cry at the end is heartbreaking.

Wood's performance, much praised at the time, is wholly conventional, although she is burdened with the most dated dialogue, especially in the early scenes. The rest of the cast is splendid, especially Backus and Doran as Jim's dreadful parents. Actors are used ironically: Backus had become famous as the voice of the cartoon character "Mr. Magoo," and here plays the henpecked, spineless husband and father. Hopper, best known as Paul Drake on television's *Perry Mason*, was the only child of gossip columnist Hedda Hopper, and, to his mother's great shame, left his wife and children for another man. Dennis Hopper and Nick Adams play members of Buzz's coterie.

East is east

Rebel was released after Elia Kazan's *East of Eden* (1955), in which Dean gave an excellent performance — his scenes with Julie Harris are among the most lyrical of the era. Kazan had chosen him

after his lauded off-Broadway turn as the blackmailing homosexual Arab boy in an adaptation of Andre Gide's *The Immoralist*. Earlier, he had bits in *Fixed Bayonets* (1951), *Sailor Beware* and *Has Anybody Seen My Gal* (both 1952, the latter starring Rock Hudson) without creating much of a stir.

Both *Eden* and *Rebel* were box-office smashes. Just before *Rebel* hit screens, Dean was filming George Stevens' *Giant* (1956), billed behind Elizabeth Taylor and Hudson, whom he did not like. On the last day of shooting, Dean was killed when his speeding Porsche hit another car. Ironically, the original trailers for *Rebel* featured Dean warning his fans against speeding on highways. The public's reaction to Dean's death was comparable to the hysteria following Valentino's. *Giant* was also a big hit, and fans made pilgrimages to his hometown of Fairmount, Indiana. Much publicity was released about his unhappy childhood, especially his beloved mother's death when he was only nine.

Dean received posthumous Best Actor Oscar nominations for *Eden* and *Giant*, and should have won for the former, but lost to Ernest Borgnine's *Marty*. *Rebel* remains his finest work — his acting in *Giant*, like the film, does not hold up. (Of the leads, only Taylor's performance, initially the least praised, remains effective.) *Rebel* received three Academy



James Dean is a bad influence on Natalie Wood in *Rebel Without a Cause*.

Award nominations, for writing and supporting actor and actress (Mineo, Wood), but failed to win any.

He remains a symbol of idealistic, disaffected youth — a rebel with a cause. In real life, Dean was

ambitious, cynical, promiscuous, a kept boy who gloried in all forms of sexual experimentation. But he knew how to charm, how to use his exquisite beauty, how to tap into genuine emotions, and, on-screen, how to create magic. ▼

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INFORMATION



Lantana

◀ previous page

knows what kind of movie he's making, and he knows how to get what he needs. Joel is flamboyant as a director, a driving force that you feel on the film."

Hershey and LaPaglia have one director in common, Woody Allen. He was in *Sweet and Lowdown*. She was in the Woody love-fest *Hannah and Her Sisters*, where she got the thrill of working opposite Max von Sydow, the legendary veteran of many Ingmar Bergman films. As in *Lantana*, the theme of her scene was a violation of trust. "[Woody's] famous for not directing actors. What he does is write really in-

credible scenes." In *Hannah*, Hershey played a young woman who has been both girlfriend and protégé to von Sydow's painter character. Hershey returns to the Lower Manhattan loft they share, having just fucked her brother-in-law (an Oscar-winning role for Michael Caine). She has simultaneously betrayed both her sister, Hannah (Mia Farrow), and Max. "[Woody] sent us off and had us rehearse by ourselves. [Then] he said, 'Show me what you've done.' His only comment was, 'Faster, faster!' We realized we needed a director, because we were doing these great Ingmar Bergman pauses." ▼

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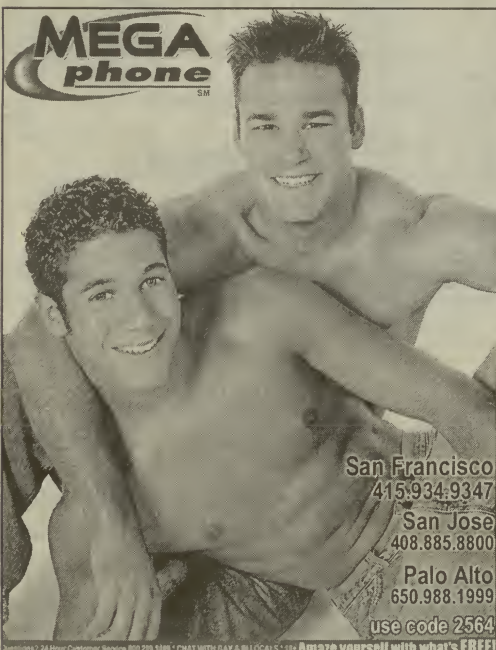
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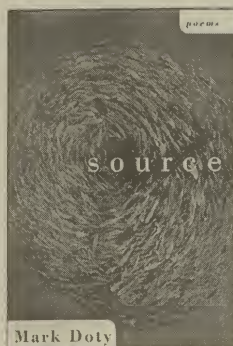
by Jim Nawrocki

Source by Mark Doty; Harper-Collins, \$22

Choosing the word "source" as the title of a poetry collection is a strangely bold move. It's an abstraction that does not ground the work in any particular time, place or state of mind. It seems, indeed, like a deliberate attempt to impose a gravity and authority on the poems, and this sense of almost forced significance can render the work suspect in the eyes of the reader. How much of contemporary poetry, after all, lives up to such a grand proposal? But the work contained in Mark Doty's new collection, *Source*, is uncommonly powerful, and it continues the tradition he's established in earlier collections such as *My Alexandria* and *Atlantis*. Like all truly gifted poets, Doty can travel from the world of daily observation into realms of great beauty and even spirituality, and he can take us along with him.

Doty opens the collection with a beautiful line from Walt Whitman: "Men and women crowding fast in the streets, if they are not flashes and specks, what are they?" It's from the poem "There Was a Child Went Forth" in the "Autumn Rivulets" section of Whitman's famous *Leaves of Grass*. Doty invokes these words again in his long poem, "Letter to Walt Whitman," a meditative, measured tribute from a modern American poet to the father of modern American poetry. It's also a communion between two gay poets. The connection that Doty feels with Whitman is more, however, than simply a sense of shared sexuality. In "Letter," he addresses Whitman directly: "But it doesn't take sex to understand/ once, in a beach side changing shed packed/ with men, all girths and degrees of furred and smooth [...] I thought, We're all here, every one of us [...]"

Doty's "Letter to Walt Whitman" is in large part a lament for



the America that has emerged out of the nation that Whitman once knew and celebrated. It concludes on a somewhat tentative note, with Doty hoping for some redemption in spite of what the world has become and "waiting for [Whitman]" to help him answer to this need. In that sense, Whitman seems to be part of the "source" that Doty draws from in this collection.

Like Whitman, Doty takes as the subject matter for many of his poems the everyday interactions of people going about their lives. Whitman sang the praises of the working man and of "the love of comrades," and found delight, for example, in the simple innocence of a group of young men bathing in a pond. In Doty's poem "At the Gym," he seems to find similar inspiration. Working out together, lifting weights, the men there gain "some power/ at least over flesh/ which goads with desire/ and terrifies with frailty." Even in such a place though, there is also the possibility of transcendence: "[...] we sweat the mark/ of our presence onto the cloth./ Here is some halo/ the living made together."

Doty's muse is also partly of the canvas — one senses he might have been a painter in another life. There are overt references to other artists, such as Mark Rothko, Stuart Davis and the sculptor Joseph Cornell, but in more general terms, Doty brings

a painterly eye to many of his poems. The long poem "Manhattan: Luminism" is a lovely study in light and shadow. It begins with small, even playful observations of a city: "The sign said immunology/ but I read/ illuminology, and look..." And later: "The sign said/ K YS made/ but what will op n./ if the locksmith's/ lost his vowel..." From there, Doty moves inward, seeing in the city signs that our human presence is enduring after all. It's a beautiful, hopeful poem, a modern ressonation of the optimism with which Doty's hero, Whitman, also regarded teeming Manhattan.

Source includes an homage to another locale, Key West. "An Island Sheaf" is an extended, five-part riff on the island and its denizens, its flora and fauna. It's a fun and fanciful poem. Whether he's watching a crab cavort inside an empty soda can, or buying coffee and glorying in the sights of his new but temporary neighborhood, Doty is alive to the pleasures of the place and sensitive to the import of all that he sees. The poem "Essay: The Love of Old Houses" is another example of Doty's celebration of the richness of sense experience.

Doty has dedicated *Source* to his lover Paul, who is the subject of at least one poem ("Paul's Tattoo") and a notable presence in others, such as "Letter to Walt Whitman." The tattoo poem, in which the poet watches his lover receive a heart tattoo, is a kind of celebration of their partnership, even a marriage poem of sorts. Doty examines his own tattoo experience in another poem, "To the Engraver of My Skin." Though there's an implied gay sensibility to Doty's poetry, it seems wrong to foist the title "gay poet" upon him. He is a poet, and one of our best. His poems have the power to take us to the fundamental truths. As he writes in the title poem, "Source," in which he describes feeding some horses along a roadside: "Put your tongue to the green-flecked/ peel of it, reader, and taste it/ from the inside." ▼

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FILM

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Arts cover

dance break-out. Moises Kaufman's film adaptation of *The Laramie Project* was the opening-night feature that screened in Salt Lake City, though it's an HBO production headed for TV. Gus Van Sant's Matt Damon and Casey Affleck-starring new movie, *Gerry*, which premiered on Saturday, is an audience-dividing bit of non-gay experimental cinema that Frameline programmer Jennifer Morris describes as akin to a glacially paced Chantal Ackermann film. Such is to say, it ain't for mainstream audiences of any stripe.

But three strong queer titles happen to be San Francisco productions. Olson reports that Harry Dodge and Silas Howard's *By Hook or by Crook*, a big hit at last summer's Frameline Festival, is so eagerly anticipated that *Entertainment Weekly*, *Movieline* and *Premiere* magazines all taped the directors and star Stanya Kahn for photo shoots. And the film doesn't even screen until the end of the week.

David Weissman and Bill Weber's *The Cockettes*, the ebullient ode to SF's legendary late-'60s hippie drag performance troupe, in the documentary competition, also has people talking. The film was feted with an after-party in the unadorned atrium of a petite shopping center — an oddly unglamorous setting, given the theme of the movie — but a nice, Skyy vodka-soaked party nonetheless. John Waters was in the house, as was *Saturday Night Live* alum Nora Dunn, and a few vintage Cockettes, decked out in their crazy-colored, face-painted finery. Fittingly, guests were offered the opportunity to let their freak flag fly, with complimentary glitter face-paint.

Weissman was having fun at the soiree. "The response to the

Weissman and Weber's ebullient ode to *The Cockettes* is at Sundance.

film has been mind-boggling," he told me. While no distribution deal had been struck by Sunday, he has managed to work his way up the town hierarchy — turns out a high school chum is the mayor of Park City.

Daddy & Papa, the other buzz-generating Bay Area project, is Johnny Symons' endearing, provocative documentary that chronicles a personal involvement with the "gayby boom" — that is, his observation of friends becoming parents, as well as the process of adopting two children with his partner William Rogers. All were in attendance at the initial festival screenings, which generated lively Q&As on the family topic.

What's striking about the film is its wholesomeness — the only slightly perky thing about it is its promotional swag, a clear latex pacifier which was tucked into every Queer Brunch gift-bag (along with the beefcake-embellished mouse pad from the "Falcon Family," and a little black book courtesy of *Sex and the City*).

The PBS-headed project, pitted against *The Cockettes* in the doc competition, warmed the heart of this viewer, who never once contemplated the prospect of child-rearing. "I think *Daddy* will win the audience award," predicts Nancy Fishman, who happens to be the publicist for ITVS, which provided completion funding for the film. "Just don't tell David Weissman I said so."

He happened to be standing nearby at the brunch, which attracted a sizable crowd of gay and lesbian film people, including *Trembling Before G-d* director Sandi Simcha Dubowsky (dressed in the same faux fur coat he was so ubiquitous in last year), Guinevere Turner, Moises Kaufman, critic B. Ruby Rich, the makers of *By Hook or by Crook*, and a Britney Spears drag queen who stars in the campy midnight movie, *Britney Baby - One More Time*. They all grazed the fruit and pastry buffet before heading out into the snow and on to their next movie move. ▼

The Lights

page 29

metry in a work for the stage.

Hendrickson's direction is clever and knowing, though he's better at enlivening the fast parts, where the writing takes off, than the slow ones, where it stalls. His cast delivers Korder's zingers with aplomb — "People who relax get flattened by trucks," "She's tough, I mean, like asphalt" — and they follow his and choreographer Reginald Ray-Savage's directions with accuracy and passion. Standouts are Lara Bruckmann, a classical soprano who dances and falls superbly here, and Matthew Henson as the stereotypical, lost-in-

himself businessman Mr. Diamond, whom we could see slapping backs and ogling broads at any restaurant. Tenor Antoine Garth orated like Judy Garland on something very strong in his 3-minute scene as a demented preacher, complete with hand mic, and charmed with an almost too-expressive version of Billy Strayhorn's classic song "Passion Flower," in the smooth-as-satin mini-concert prefacing Act II.

Baritone sax/bass clarinetist Tom Griesser impressed with his musical and actorly duties in Act I, where he played "The Manager." The whole sax family impressed, to say nothing of the brass, as did the extra-alert Jeff Marrs on skins (drums), who has some percus-

sive kicks, or thumps, to do. Veteran Jim Cave did the very effective lighting design, and Suzanne Castillo the in-and-out-of-the-period costumes. Though *The Lights* isn't profound, it's still a mostly breakneck tour of our hyped-up urban times, and, with that added mini-concert, it's a lot of cluck for the buck. ▼

The Lights continues Thurs.-Sat., 1/17-19, 24-26 at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets (\$16 adv., \$20 door), call (415) 863-9834.

MUSIC

Crimson wave



Ingrid Page-Steldon

Fresh from the US tour of seminal rock band King Crimson, touch guitarist and Crimson band member Trey Gunn brings his own band to Café du Nord, 2170 Market St., from Monday to Wednesday, January 21-23, at 9 p.m.

Gunn's unusual instrument was created for him, an eight-string guitar with the range of a piano. The Trey Gunn Band, which includes percussionist Bob Muller and guitarists Tony Geballe and Joe Mendelson, will play material from its current release *Live Encounter*. Tickets and info: (415) 861-5016, or visit www.cafedunord.com. ▼

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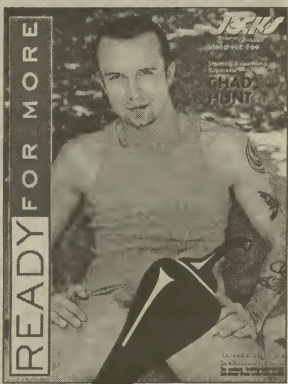
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

It's, like, WOW!

Things are hopping at Venue 9, the SoMa space where the fine folks of Footloose have kicked off their latest "Women on the Way Festival," starting with Tina D'Elia's "Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup," one of several pieces in rotation performing the three-weekend showcase of original women's performances. In D'Elia's one-woman comedy, Tina, a Latina lesbian, wakes alarmed to find she has been transformed into Groucho Marx! You can hear her madcap act on Friday, January 18, on a double bill with "World Affairs" by Daughters of Yam — Opal Palmer Adisa and Deborah Major, in which two seasoned performance poets push buttons, take on issues, chant and invite the audience to join in the ritual of language as a healing force. Their work is centered on being of African descent, women, mothers and lovers who now insist on rooms of their own and money to fund their dreams.

On Saturday, January 19, the festival presents "Nothing is Sacred" by Erica Sodos, a solo musical comedy that asks: Is there recovery from addiction to God and masturbation? Can we ever escape suffering? Are aliens our friends? Also on the bill is Cathleen Daly's "How to be a Secret Agent Girl as Seen on American Television and in Movies," in which five gorgeous, funny women expose the belly of the beauty beast through theater, song and movement.

On Sunday, January 20, Eleanor Scott's "Date Me" begins with the line, "What is a date?" From there, Scott and her hilarious retinue guide the audience through a survival course on dealing with crushes, nightmares and miracles. That piece shares the bill with D'Elia's "Groucho."

The festival continues the next weekend (January 24-27) with Cathy Roy's *The Things I've Done for Love*, in which the author searches for Mr. Right, and ends up with Mr. Right Now. The piece is performed in a bawdy, Dr. Seuss meets Heretica style, complete with rubber dress. Roy proudly touts the fact she has been described as "Betty Crocker on acid."

Rounding out the offerings is a performance by Dance Repertory/SF (Jan. 26 & 27 and Feb. 1 & 2; with special guest the Strong Current Dance Company). This highly regarded, energetic modern dance company will present three separate pieces, to the delight of audiences who know them for their eclectic repertory and dynamic array of styles. ▼

Tickets for the WOW Festival are \$15 each. Venue 9 is located at 252 Ninth St. (near Folsom). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com



Debauchery presents "Skin" at Xenodrome. See Saturday.

Fr 18

Dance Mission Theater

Premiere: "CaveWomen 2002," directed and choreographed by Krissy Keefer, presented by Dance Brigade. The title comes from the great yogini women of India and Tibet, reputed to have the ability to shape shift into animals, resurrect the dead, and walk on water. They held their rituals in caves, abandoned buildings and graveyards. They hailed originally from Odiyanna, in a valley on the border of what are now Afghanistan and Pakistan. Keefer's dancers are known for their high-energy blend of classical technique, modern dance, acrobatics, song and text. Collaborators include Elaine Buckholtz, Joe Williams, Bruce Ghent, Ling Mei Zhang, and Yannis Adoniou. \$17 adv.; \$20 door. 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 6pm Sun. Thru Feb. 2. 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix: 273-4633; Mama Bear Books (Berkeley); Modern Times Bookstore (SF).

848 Community Space

Scott Capurro embarks on a three-night solo run of stand-up comedy, produced by QComedy.com. Capurro has performed worldwide, including at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in Australia. His novel, *Fowl Play*, was published in England and is available in SF at A Different Light Bookstore and Books Inc. He is known in the Bay Area for his regular appearances on the Sarah and Vinnie show on Radio Alice. \$12. 8pm. Thru Sun., Jan. 20. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610;



Scott Capurro knocks 'em dead at 848 Community Space. See Friday.

www.QComedy.com;
www.scottcapurro.com

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

New Langton Arts, Small Press Traffic, and the Jon Sims Center present two one-act plays as part of the Poets Theater Jubilee, a four-week celebration of SF's poetic experiments in theater. Featuring "Arts Colony Survivor" by Norma Cole and Kevin Killian, and "Reduced" by Rachel Levitsky and Camille Roy. \$5 (free to SP members). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South-Van Ness). Tix/info: 626-5416.

Herbst & Festival Pavilions, Fort Mason Center

Thomas Blackman Associates presents the "San Francisco International Art Exposition 2002," a four-day art extravaganza featuring the works of 750 artists exhibited by 100 dealers and galleries from around the world. \$12 (\$9 students/seniors). Passes: \$20 two-day; \$25 three-day; \$30 four-day. 11am-7pm Fri. & Sat.; 11am-6pm Sun. & Mon. Info: 877-734-2399; www.sfiac.com

Actors Theatre

Opening night: Kenneth Lonergan's "This is Our Youth," directed by Paul D'Audario, starring Christian Haynes, Elijah Berlow, and Lauren English. In 1982, on Manhattan's Upper West Side, three wealthy, articulate, pot-smoking teenagers who were small children in the 1960s have emerged as young adults in a country that has just resoundingly rejected everything they were brought up to believe in. The play follows 48 hours in the lives of these very lost souls at the dawn of the Reagan Era. \$25 (\$7 discounts for students/seniors). 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. 533 Sutter St. (btwn Powell & Mason). Tix/info: 296-9179; Tix Union Square; ATSF box office 30 minutes b4 show.

Marin Center, San Rafael

Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo, billed as "The World's Foremost All-Male Comic Ballet Company," parody classical works from "Swan Lake" to "Giselle" and the choreography of Isadora Duncan, George Balanchine and Martha Graham.

Featuring Svetlana Lofatkin, Margeaux Mundein and Igor Slowpokin, among other stellar ballerina-boys from around the world. In their 28th year toeing the fine line between high art and high camp, this ensemble offers delicious male bodies in tutus (or en travesti, as they say). \$32, \$24 & \$18. 8pm. Tix/info: (415) 472-3500; all Ticketmaster outlets (including Tower Records, Ritmo Latino, & select Rite Aid Stores).

Book Inc., Castro

Reading and book signing with Rob Cohen and David Wollock, authors of *Etiquette for Outlaws*. With special guest appearances and free beer w/book purchase. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777.

Sat 19

Marin Headlands Youth Hostel

LYRIC's Leadership Project presents "Cause I'm Fierce," a two-day retreat for trans youth of color. Why? "To respect ourselves and love each other in this world of hard livin'. We've been there and we know what it's like to survive. This space is about keepin' it real and movin' forward to address self-respect, police brutality, and how it all ties in together." Organized by the Leadership Project, a program of the Lavendar Youth Recreation and Information Center. Info, Ana at LYRIC, 703-6150, x 21; email ana@lyric.org

Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: Noel Coward's *Design for Living*, a naughty comedy, directed by Bay Area bad boy John Fisher (Medea: *The Musical*; *The Joy of Gay Sex*), who gives this Coward classic a fresh update. It's the story of a sexy young trio of artsy types coupling and uncoupling from Paris to New York, a group of people who find it impossible to live together and equally impossible to live apart. Gilda loves Otto and Leo, both of whom love her and are devoted to each other. It's also about fame and the strange need for famous people to couple with other famous people. Dripping



"Self Portrait," acrylic, 1999 by Leroy Morvant, at New Conservatory Theater Center. See Tuesday.

with decadence when it premiered in 1932, *Design for Living* still presses hot buttons in a contemporary setting. The original NY production starred Alfred Lunt and his wife Lynn Fontanne, plus Coward himself. \$20 Fri. & Sat.; \$18 Thu. & Sun.; \$16 Wed. 8pm (7pm Sun.). Thru Feb. 16. Tix/info: 861-5079.

Catharine Clark Gallery

Opening party: works by sculptor Walter Robinson ("Animalism"), Tag Team (Robinson and painter Tim Sharman; "Neurotica"), and Philip Knoll ("Boy"). This morning event (9:30-11:30am) is held in conjunction with the SF Int'l. Art Exposition Art Gallery Breakfast. 49 Geary St., 2nd floor. Info: 399-1439; www.cclark-gallery.com

Xenodrome

Debauchery presents "Skin," a theatrical nightclub experience featuring "the dynamic interaction between dancing, drumming and song," with collaborative performance by Jallia Bell, Simone de la Ghetto, Amber Hines, Rosario Lionidakis, Kaylah Marin, Meg Shepard and producer RandenTrixTrashinaCann. Groove to world music and live drumming with DJ Divinity. Dancing and drumming jam after show (bring your skins). \$20 (includes open bar). Doors open 9pm; show at 10pm. 1320 Potrero Ave. (at 25th).

Rose Street House of Music, Berkeley

In concert: blues musician Gwen Avery delivers her soulful originals and classic standards. One of the pioneers of the women's music movement, Avery toured nationally in the 1970s, and her hit single "Sugar Mama" was the opening track on the pivotal Olivia recording, "Lesbian Concentrate." \$5-\$15 donation. 8pm. 1839 Rose St., Berkeley. Info: (510) 594-4000, ext. 687; www.gwenavery.com

Pacific Center for Human Growth, Berkeley

"Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know about Bathhouses but Were Too Asian to Ask"—A Workshop for Gay/Bisexual/Questioning guys. Come meet other Asian guys and talk about bathhouses! Topics include Sex, Love, Relationships, Lust, Hot Men, and did we mention Sex? Confidential meeting space, no pressure to talk if you don't want to. Food provided. No experience needed. All welcome! Sponsored by Asian Health Services (Oakland),

funded by Alameda County Office of AIDS. 6-7:30pm. 2712 Telegraph Ave. (across from Andronico's), Berkeley. Info: Joseph at 510-986-6830 ext. 371; www.ahshc.org/men.htm

El Rio

"Three Queer Bands: Rock, Pop and Bubblegum!" Featuring Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family (Kjsten Haaland on drums, Peter D'Elia on expressionist lead guitar, Tim Perdue on bass, and trans-activist Shawna Virago on guitar and lead vocals); Secadora (Adrienne Robillard on vocals and guitar, Dan Lowrie on lead guitar, and Kjsten Haaland on drums); and the Whoa-Nellies, a bubblegum-pop preservation society featuring Leigh Crow and Connie Champagne, plus the talents of former members of Enrique! and The Tuck-n-Roll Players. Doors open 9pm; show at 10pm. 3158 Mission St.

Club Six

Dance to house beats laid down by guest DJs Miss Megan (SF) and David Harness (Taboo), and fab Resident DJ Anita Lofton. Visuals by Collin Manning. \$6 b4 11pm; \$9 after. Doors open 9:30pm 'til Afterhours. 60 Sixth St.

Sun 20

26 Mix

Fudgie Frottage and Vinsantos present "Transfusion," a nightclub designed to pump some new blood into this town. Tonight, back by popular demand: "Trannymania, Smackdown II!" Come witness fierce and bitter Tranny wrestling madness with brutal, hardcore title wrestling — wigs will fly!!! It's kings vs. kings, kings vs. queens, queens vs. queens, femmes on a boy on boy, plus some twisted tag-team action. Wrestlers include your hostesses plus Betty, Rusty Hines, Cave Boy, Vladika and more (for complete line-up, call 282-JEST). Preceded and followed by dancing with DJ Taffy D. \$5 in drag (King, Queen, Tranny, High Femme, Fetish, Punk & Wrestling); \$6 boring street clothes. 8pm-2am. 3024 Mission St. (at 26th St.). Info: www.26mix.com

Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, Main Library

Reading & book signing: Two Episcopal priests, William Countryman and M.R. Ritley, one a gay man and one a lesbian, talk about their new book *Gifted by Otherness*:

Gays and Lesbians in the Christian Church. Their bold claim: we are not the church's "problem" — we are its salvation. Books available to purchase thanks to A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books. Free. 3pm. Main Library (Civic Center), 3rd floor. Info: 557-4251; www.friendsand-foundation.org

El Rio

"In Bed With Fairy Butch For Gals, Transfolks & Their Pals: A Butch/FTM Bonanza!" — "Voted SF's best place to cop a same-sex date!" Feast yourself on a bountiful bevy of hot Butch and FTM studs. Gals and transfolks of all colors and their pals welcome. Take in all of the testosterone, and stuff a wild jockstrap! Femme & andro admirers come too — there'll be tons in the audience! Includes a sex-toy extravaganza raffle ticket. \$10-15 sliding (Broke? Call & volunteer!). Doors open 5pm; show starts at 7pm. DJ Dancing after the show. 3158 Mission St. (at Caesar Chavez). Info: FEZ-8000; Bar: 282-3325.

Mon 21

Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, Oakland

The University of Creation Spirituality presents its 4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: "Awakening the Soul of a Nation." Featuring keynote speaker Gus Newport, the former Berkeley Mayor, and a host of community leaders and entertainers. With a special award presentation to The Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Lee. A Martin Luther King Jr. Art Exhibit serves as a way to artistically express Dr. King's passionate vision; this year's show will also include artwork addressing the events of 9/11. The event is offered as a way to build harmony, peace and justice. Free (donations welcome). 10am-12 noon (reception follows). 1188 - 12 St. (at Adeline), Oakland. Info: Idris Hassan at (510) 835-4827, ext. 31; www.creation-spirituality.com

848 Community Space

"QComedy Showcase" presents Monday Night Gay Comedy, this week hosted by Karen Ripley, the pioneering lesbian comedian recently noted for her acting in Valerie Solanas' play Up Your Ass. Also appearing: Maggie Dolan, Danny Ryan, David



Tag Team unveil "Neurotica" at Catharine Clark Gallery. See Saturday.

Guiney, Jeffrey Douglas, Don McCracken, James Judd, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. Info: 541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall

Free Closing-Day Admission in honor of Martin Luther King Day: At The Presidio, a new pilot program sponsored by the Presidio Trust, presents "Japan at the Dawn of the Modern Age: Woodblock Prints from the Meiji Era, 1868-1912." This exhibit is based on the exhibition organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from the Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Collection. Free (usually \$9). 10am-5pm. 50 Moraga Ave. (at Arguello Blvd.). Tix/info: 1-800-965-4827.

Tue 22

New Conservatory Theater Center

Opening reception: Visual Aid presents an exhibit of paintings by Leroy Morvant from the series "Belches and Blossoms." Curated by Deborah Balas and Douglas Morris. Visual Aid encourages artists with life-threatening illnesses to continue their creative work. Free. 5-7pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. Info: NCTC, 861-4914; Visual Aid, 777-8242; www.visualaid.org



Jayson Matthews, Jenny Lord and Will Springhorn, Jr. wrestle for one another's affection in *Design for Living* at Theater Rhino. See Saturday.

Wed 23

The Stud

Premiere engagement: "Stood Up!" A new monthly comedy club (every 3rd Wed.) organized by celebrity drag queen/stand-up comedienne/old drunk Pippi Lovestocking. Much beloved by those who aren't throwing banana peels and tomatoes at her, Pippi is a gal with enormous guts. Though "friends" with Heklina, and co-founder of that house of ill repute, Trannyshack, Pippi has determinedly struck off on her own to make it big. Really big. Join her and assorted friends for tasteless jokes and poking fun at people. \$5. Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. 1284 Harrison St. (at 9th St.).

Club Galia

"Burn, Hollywood, Burn," a Fashion Show Mockumentary. The paparazzi will be out in force. The plot: a subversive attempt to theatrically portray and overthrow the façade of a fashion show. Starring 32 Jaded Runway Models on a mission to take over the cat walk, and then the world. Interactive performances by the Spy Girls, an entourage that puts Charlie's Angels to shame (they play with femme-fatale dance moves and toy guns). Plus three kick-ass bands: Blue Period (glitzy glammy); No Gun Go (confrontational); and Insex (interesting). With SF's fashion elite designers Thang Dao & Two Square. Live Visual Projections. Undercover DJs spin top secret records. 2565 Mission St. (btwn 21st & 22nd). Info: 970-9777

Koret Auditorium, Main Library

Lesbian book critic Pat Holt interviews former Howard University president Joyce Ladner about her new book about social entrepreneurs, *The New Urban Leadership*. Free. 6pm.

Last Day Saloon

In concert: Wildsang (Hillary Kay and Kate Solbjor Freeman), a New Mexican Blues duo with a political bent. They address the issues of abuse, the death penalty, racism and care of the earth. 9:30pm. 406 Clement St.

Thu 24

Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage

"night/OUT at Berkeley Rep," an LGBT evening of theatre and socializing, fea-

turing a performance of Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, with post-show reception. Ionesco's absurdist classic tells the story of a small provincial town whose citizens slowly but surely transform into large cumbersome rhinoceroses. This fantastical fable of autonomy in the face of conformity is as relevant today as when it premiered in 1960. Directed by Barbara Damashek. Featuring Geoff Hoyle as Beringer and Jarion Monroe as Jean. \$42 (\$16 for under 30). 8pm. The play runs thru March 10. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 647-2949; www.berkeleyrep.org

Live Oak School

Intro to Gay and Lesbian Square Dancing with the Foggy City Dancers. Square dancing isn't clogging or two-stepping, it's the do-si-do you remember from grade school... but with gays and lesbians. No partner needed. Foggy City holds a Club Night every Thursday for dancers who have completed the class, and also hosts big dances, picnics, etc. Free. 7:30-9:30pm. 117 Diamond St., basement (enter through back door via parking lot). Info: 905-4546; www.foggycitydancers.org

Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

The Lamplighters present Gilbert & Sullivan's "Patience," the classic comic opera that makes fun of the aesthetic movement of the late 19th century. It's sure to make you laugh as long as there are self-serving pseudo-poets and glib girls to worship them — but of course that never happens anymore! Jane Hammett directs; Monroe Kanouse conducts the 22-piece Lamplighters Orchestra. Starring Lawrence Ewing as the poet Bunthorne. \$20-\$38 (\$10-\$15 children under 12). 8pm. Also Jan. 25 & 26 (opens in SF on Feb. 8 at Yerba Buena Center). 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tix/info: (925) 943-7469; www.lamplighters.org

The Bayfront Theater

"The A**hole Monologues," A Comedy For Anyone Who Has One, Knows One, Or Is One. A Benefit for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Conceived in the spirit of Eve Ensler's critically acclaimed show, "The Vagina Monologues." An hour and a half of comedic, dramatic, musical and poetic monologues, all exploring the theme of "A**holes." Directed by Corey Rosen, an effects artist and screenwriter for George Lucas' *Industrial Light + Magic*, who has directed several award-winning short films and performs regularly with Bay Area Theatre-sports. Featuring Bay Area talent and national celebrities. 8pm. Also on Thu., Jan. 31. Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), Bldg. B, 3rd Fl. Tix/info: 474-8935; www.cdfa.org; www.asshole-monologues.com

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These five men competed for the January 2003 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar (l to r): Troy Anicete, Joe Potter, Darrell Granite, Mike Sousa, and Craig West. Darrell Granite won. Mr. February 2003 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, January 24.

Big bonanza for charity

Bare Chest Calendars pay off

by Mister Marcus

The Year of the Horse kicked off with great style last week. The 2003 Bare Chest Calendar contests got underway at the Powerhouse, but before that, David Kloss, the Calendar Committee Chair, took the stage and presented \$30,500 to worthy causes! The funds were divided equally between the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources Center. On hand for the ceremony were Ralph Petersen, AEF chair, and Mark Murphy, PRC chair. The calendar committee helped with the presentation, and a huge ovation ensued after Ralph and Mark gave thank yous.

And let me herewith give my personal thanks to all the contestants, judges, committee members and others who toiled to make the 2002 Bare Chest Calendar a financial success. Bravo!

Five men were vying for the spot (they were Tony Anicete, Darrell Granite, Joe Potter, Mike Sousa and Craig West), and they faced judges Jeff Johnston, James Scott Geras and Peter Millar. The usual shenanigans ensued, with questions, admissions and revela-

tions presented for the crowd's enjoyment.

When the scores were tallied, Darrell Granite took the January 2003 spot, with Mike Sousa the runner-up.

With that, the 2003 calendar is off and running. Mr. February 2003 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, January 24th at 2130. If you think your chest would look good on the calendar come on down and try out!



Leather

Mr. Regiment Leather

In Los Angeles at the Faultline Bar on Saturday, January 12, the premiere uniform club in Southern California ventured into the sash game by staging their first-ever Mr. Regiment Leather 2002 contest. A huge crowd was on hand for the inaugural event (with a waiting line outside!), which saw four men compete for the new title.

While all the details are sketchy, when it was over the youthful-looking Gene Mar was chosen Mr. Regiment Leather 2002, and the first runner up was Ken Kurass. Mr. Mar will advance to compete for the Mr. LA Leather 2002 title on March 23. The race is on in Los Angeles County, with everyone enthusias-

tic and supportive. It should be a sell-out event this year. How sweet it is!

Capers in the capital

Right about the time you're reading this, hundreds of leather people are either there already or en route to Washington, D.C. for the year's first big leather event. Any leather press writer who misses this one should have their press credentials taken away!

The Centaur Motorcycle Club is geared up and ready for the invasion as the 2002 Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend unfolds with a plethora of events, play parties, a roast, and the announcement of the new Leather Sir and Leather Boy judges.

The young, dedicated and delightful Mike Marino of New York City, who won the title just a year ago, will step aside and sash his successor on Sunday afternoon, January 20 at the mammoth Nations nightclub. Rooms at the Washington Plaza host hotel are completely sold out, and almost all the other four nearby hotels are in the same status.

With no blizzard warnings so far on the horizon, the weather in the nation's capital looks favorable. Expect a big contingent from the Left Coast (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Long Beach, etc.) to

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, January 18-21

Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington, DC hosted by the Centaur Motorcycle Club and featuring the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest on Sunday afternoon, January 20th. Thanks Mike Marino — you did us proud!

At the Russian River in Guerneville, it's Polar Bear Weekend with double header parties at Rainbow Cattle Co. and the Russian River Eagle. The whole town is involved with a daytime movie lounge, pizza feed, pig roast, play parties, Polar Pool Plunge (a ton of ice is being imported) and other shenanigans.

Friday, January 18

Exiles of SF present: "Ask the Medical Experts." Get info about health, alternative medicine, chiropractors, OB/GYN matters and infectious diseases. Women's Bldg. (18th St. near Valencia). \$3 members/\$6 guests. Doors at 1830, Program at 1900.

Saturday, January 19

Bears of SF beer/soda bust for \$7 (members \$6) at the Lone Star to benefit the David Dysart Memorial Scholarship fund, from 1600-1900.

Sunday, January 20

"Under Construction" benefit at the new Turf Club

in Hayward by that cute Ms. Alameda Co. Leather Kat Matthews. Best Tool Belt contest, a nail driving competition, 50/50 raffle, draft beer, roach coach style food. Check it out!

Pegasus MOC "Iceman Cometh" ride to Santa Cruz. No details furnished at my deadline.

Monday, January 21

It's Martin Luther King holiday! What better way to celebrate than at the Eagle's "St. Martin's Day" world soul food pot luck? "Bring what your Mama fed ya!" The fun lasts from 1600 on.

Wednesday, January 23

Leather Buddies Night at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: no sneakers, no cologne. Leather, boots, latex, uniforms only. Call 777-HEAD.

Thursday, January 24

Mr. February 2003 will be chosen for the Bare Chest Calendar tonight at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Judges: Remi Colette, Chris Ross and from Chicago, IML Chief Judge Thom Dombkowski. Don't miss this one!

Saturday, January 26

Mr. Faultline Leather 2002 contest at the Faultline Bar in Los Angeles. Winner goes on to compete at Mr. L.A. Leather on March 23rd.

PORN

Beyond the old in-out

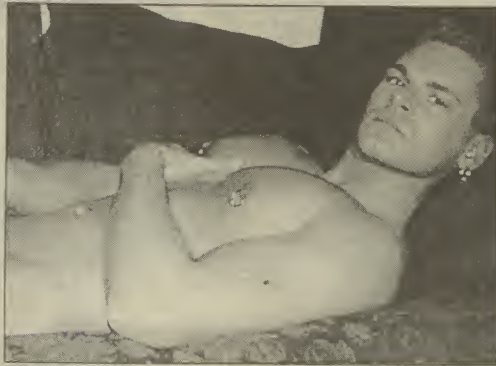
by John F. Karr

The quote of the week is this old Danish saying, found in *The New Yorker*: "Pissing in your pants will only keep you warm for so long." At the moment, that exactly sums up my feelings about porn. Although it's kept me steamy as a good piss in the pants, a cooling has recently set in. I'm wanting a little more from porn than the formula I've been getting. Like eroticism. Most movies, the guys meet and bam, there's a cock up somebody's ass. How about all the things boys do together in and around getting it on? Like touching. All mammals do it, you know. Or simply giving us some show-off as they squirm around in their undies.

That's why I was thoroughly aroused by the playfully erotic *Tighty Whities* (All Worlds Video), directed by Chi Chi La Rue in fairly nasty mode. This is the movie in which Spike tries to suck his own dick. I say tries, because as long as it is, he's just not flexible enough to do more than lick at the tip. What a disappointment. You better believe if I was there, I could bend over far enough to get Spike's dick in my mouth.

In *Tighty Whities*, Spike is given the longest, most cock-stretching solo he's received, although its build-up is interrupted by the movie's other scenes. All of these feature a major amount of tease in those tautly stretched undies, and deliver the goods with gusto when the briefs finally come off — which they don't always do altogether. The delectable finale cums with Spike splattering his load against his lips and salivating tongue; his cock may not have fit in there, but he gets a mouthful, nonetheless.

The fact that such erotic play is so routinely left out of porn that it requires an entire movie to redress



Tigger in All Worlds' *Male.cum*: fierce of face, cock, and attitude.

the balance speaks to what's lacking in porn. Depicting the old in-out's been perfected; now we need the reason for it. So that's another thing I'm missing in porn: I want to be elated as well as ejaculated. Is it wrong, or just wrongheaded of me to expect some emotional sustenance from porn?

These days, I want true love. Or utter sensation. A combination of the two would be really swell, and I'm waiting for it with baited breath.

Fierce and furless

In love's absence, I certainly didn't mind the couple moments of utter sensation to be attained at the end of the otherwise rather blah *Male.cum* (also All Worlds). This is a first effort from director Rafael, who is saved from his technical and narrative clumsiness (even fucking maniac Michael Brandon is compromised) by the debut of a meaty young Texas boy named Tigger (not the tattooed and typically boring Tiger). Sturdy as a young Marine, Tigger's fierce of face, cock and attitude. His breasts are baited with pouty

medallions of flesh pierced with heavy silver rings, and he doesn't have a hair on his body below his eyebrows. Now, to see a guy with his crotch shorn of hair, I'd crawl through the clippings with my tongue dragging. But *Male.cum* delivers two handsomely dickied and thoroughly slick guys, in a scene that Rafael delivers with some excitement. And after that, all hell breaks loose in the film's finale, when Tigger and brunette James Perry don fetishwear — black gloves, harnesses, cuffs, ball stretchers, thick and heavy cock rings — and lunge at each other. Tigger's tits are heavily tugged by the weight of the chains hooking his nipple rings to Perry's wrist restraints. Tigger shoves a dildo up his buddy's ass, pumps it fiercely, and then skewers himself on the handle end, pounding their asses together as if fusion were the goal. It's sensational.

So I've got to admit, then, that porn's piss-down-my-pants is retaining a little warmth, after all. I ought to write on the blackboard one hundred times the wise words of the late Artie Bressan: "Porn is a candy bar." How foolish of me to keep wanting a Power Bar. ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

show up. You'll be the first to know the results here and on www.LeatherPage.com.

Back here at home, The Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 contest committee has been working and planning this year's edition, which takes place on Friday, March 8 at Club Townsend. Committee president Jerry Roberts has assigned people to different tasks, and the judges for this year's contest will be announced any day now. Stay tuned for ticket prices

and outlets and other details about San Francisco's highest-ranking leather title.

The crass menagerie

Without mentioning any names, a certain female leather titleholder should get her act together and take care of business if she hopes to advance to the next level of competition with honor. Anyone who has ever competed at the international level will tell you that the judges are free (and encouraged) to ask anything they want, and that includes financial status/obligations/capabilities. A word to the wise!

they have these in Ancient Greece, or are they a Teutonic addition? Somehow we can't see Plato on luge) have gonzo sports like half-pipe, the handsome, ruddy-cheeked skiing stars (male and female), those awesome lugers, and the erstwhile figure-skating champions with the obvious queers among them. This year, an added plus for all those dykes with a hankering for girls poured into latex suits: Women's bobsled debuts in SLC. You go, girls!

Finally, that ever-intrepid hipster Carson Daly appeared on Conan O'Brien's show last week after returning from doing USO

shows. He brought Conan one of the humanitarian food packets being dropped on Afghanistan: Pop-Tarts, peanut butter, and lentil stew with preparation instructions in English, and *no water* in the land of drought. Who says the military doesn't know what they're doing? We can see it now: Forget smart bombs. Osama bin Laden will have a hard time making more inflammatory videos with his tongue stuck to the roof of his mouth from too much peanut butter. We Western infidels aren't as stupid as we look.

Yes, the new year is looking better every day. Stay tuned. ▼

Lavender Tube

◀ page 31

colounger and get out the Doritos: The Winter Olympics are back next week, from the town that put the moolah in payola to get them, Salt Lake City, Utah. Scandal be damned, in the most jingoistic of sporting events, the home team gets the edge.

Let's face it, there's only so much sprinting one can watch in the summer, and those summer athletes always make one guilty for not spending 20 hours a day at the gym. The Winter Olympics (did

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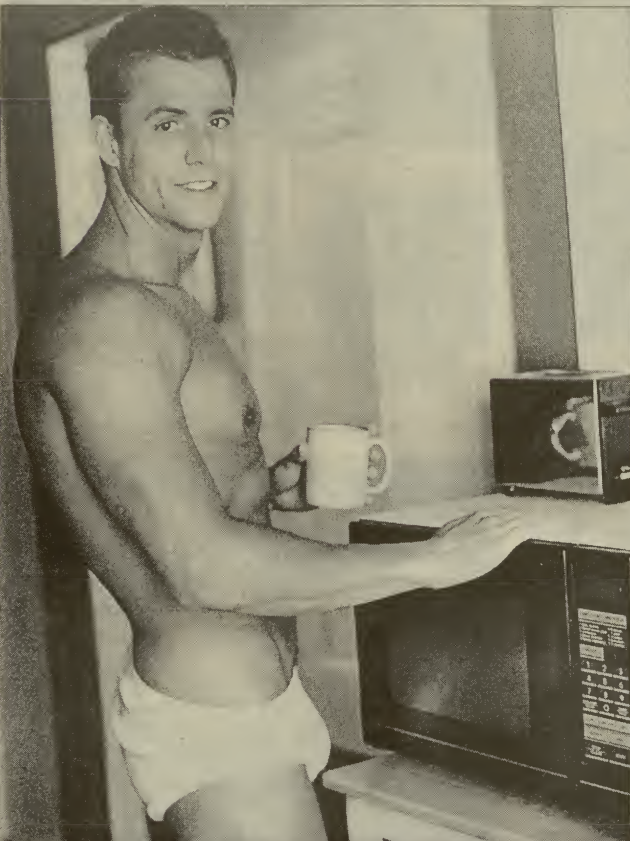
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PARTING GLANCES

~White Chevron Polo Shirt~
Oakland Airport- black jeans, red beard, white polo shirt with large Chevron logo on back. Let me know how I can reach you and introduce myself. ☎ 71378

•College Av Oakland 12/11, 2pm~
Me: blue windbreaker, glasses, baseball cap. You: short hair, great smile, Hispanic I think, sitting at sidewalk table as I tied my dogs leash to a tree. Sigh. Call me! ☎ 71381

December 6th 7:05pm Cafe Flore
We were on the same street car. Then waiter in front of Cafe Flore for our friends that were late. Me: WM you are. ☎ 71379

Ken @ Steamworks 12/14 1am
You came to my room. You: tall, muscled, hairy, clean shaven. Me: shorter, smooth, goatee. Enjoyed playing. Want more! Alan. ☎ 71380

Muchacho Muy Guapo-Alfredo
You left without getting my phone number on Sunday, 12/23. Will I see you again, place, same day? Papi Pedro wants you! ☎ 71392

Martin New Years Eve Phonefind
Thank you for resending my phone. Martin from Alameda. Please call Peter P. to arrange return. Will pick up or ship or meet. Thanks again Peter. ☎ 71414

"Arnold Where Are You?"
Arnold from Pacifica? Menlo Park. We met at bus stop 18th and Castro at 2pm on 12/27. I got the wrong email address. Would love to connect. David ☎ 71404

New Years Eve @ Universe
Shaw- we met briefly outside while I was waiting for a cab. You were arriving with friends. Would like to talk with you further. Greg ☎ 71413

Bondage Partner(s) Wanted By
GWM, 5'11", 165, red/grey, blue, muscled, 52, HIV-. Into tight ropes, gags, creative scenes. UB goodlooking 20-49, bottom (switch?), Struggle, J/D, face/ass fuck, safe sex, N/S, N/D. ☎ 71382

Muni Chance Encounter
Three weeks ago you GWM (shopping per-haps) got on train at Powell. I got off at Civic Center. Our eyes met and I waved. Where are you? Me: GBM coming from work. I want you! ☎ 71402

•Steve• Steve•Steve•
Sunday 12/23 Blow Buddies. We played three times! Had a special connection. I told you "you're cute". You said I "could be the poster boy for cock sucking". Dave ☎ 71403

Rich @ Daddy's New Years
You just arrived from Twin Peaks party. Me: wished you a Happy New Year- a pit stop at closing, returned and you were gone. Want to continue conversation? ☎ 71415

Have We Met?
Seeking someone whose path has already crossed with yours? No? then take it, else where, bud. You know who you are. Mr. Bondage. Get back to your appropriate column. ☎ 71416

•Taxi•
You picked me and a friend up & gave us quite a ride! We gave you our number & really want to ride again! Call us & let's go again! ☎ 71417

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

~Anything Goes~
Mild or wild, let's do it! Hung thick (nice mouthful), hairy, 6', 200#, gray trim beard, HIV-. Into music, arts theater, photography. You 40+, neg, GWAH. Hot daddy answers all replies. ☎ 71393

Masculine Hole For My Pleasure
Spiritual Journey: leather, affection, and sleaze. Va, w/s, humiliation, face-slapping, belt-whipping. Master's 38, 5'10", 172, brbl, moustache, HIV-, nice shape UB2, look around my age. Single only. ☎ 71395

Nice Guy Looking 4 Same
I am GAM, 35, 5'6", thoughtful, easy-going, smart and caring. Would like to meet similar GAM/GWM in East Bay for dating. Please be NS/ND, HIV-. ☎ 71405

~Mature Men~
I'm attractive to affectionate senior men who enjoy passionate kissing and oral pleasure. Kink ok. I'm a WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. Non-gym, facial hair, rugged-looks a -N. No gay scene, drugs, attitude. ☎ 71406

Straight- Acting- GWM- 59-155
Enjoys movies- opera, travel, outdoors-garden, pets. Evening at home. Looking for a masculine guy- mid forties- good sense of humor- nice body a plus- NS. ☎ 71418

~Geek Heat~
Terminus, arrakis, rama, perm; which one doesn't belong? Why? Attractive Black guy, 5'10", 180, 44, dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, quiet, bookish, computer programmer, versatile bottom, HIV+ seeking friendship intimacy, etc. ☎ 71419

How About A Little Bump & Grind
93MI prof. too 50 seeking GWM bottom 48-64yrs for good hot sex on an occasional or on going basis. Also open to some type of relationship but horny for now. Smk, drink, and aroma all good. Prefer you be somewhat stocky built, enjoy sex underwear and nudity. No heavy beads. ☎ 71420

Mature GWM Seeks New Friend(s)
Who enjoy sharing experiences, tv/movies watching, card and board games, cuddling. Have extensive library and knowledge of films. Look forward to meeting you. ☎ 71427

Mulatto Guy. Sexy, Intelligent
Educated, good-looking. Looking for a relationship or fun and good times. Please contact me. ☎ 71422

Searching For A Unique Man
Haw/Flip 42 5'5", 145 smooth hltz poze ver/ btm". Skg mascu too hopefully for companionship, friendship, romance & great "safe" hot sex. I'm good hearted romantic, passionate, sensitive but strong responsible & relationship oriented. ☎ 71426

~Seeking Connection~
GWM, 55, 5'8", bmbf, HIV- seeks relationship with loving GM of pure heart, who has wide and varied interests, craves affection and intimacy, and enjoys had sex. ☎ 71423

•Seeking Quality•
GWM, 42, 5'9", 180, professional, seeks GM, preferably Asian, 35-55, for dating and possible relationship. Interests include: Classical music, politics, travel, working out and reading. Looking for someone to share good times and good conversation. ☎ 71424

Milton At Cameraworks Dec 1st
We talked after last auction piece was sold, and later outside, I introduced myself and gave you my number. I'd enjoy hearing from you. ☎ 71421

Partner/ Romance
GWP(M/NS/ND), 43- 5'11"- 195#, HIV+, goatie, smooth, frisky. You: hairy, good-hearted bottom. Who enjoys concerts, Muir Woods, skiing, theatre, cuddling, foreign films, animals, NPR. ☎ 71425

Handsome Chinese Guy
Tall educated ISO inked Asian over 50 for friendship or tr. ☎ 71394

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Horny WM W/Big Cut Cocks
Cocksucker's hot mouth/tongue. Married/BI/Single ok. Trim in shape only. GWM sucks u when she won't. ☎ 71383

Into Man Smells, 28, Masc, Tall, Gdtk, active, armpits underwear, tan lines, white sweaty socks, oral, no cologne. Masc, cool White boys, 25-40. HIV- East Bay/SF Jack aroma, addas. Got what it takes? S 71384

Need Top Men
To put his big 7" or more dick down my deep throat. I am GWM, 6ft, 45yr, old Ages 30-55. ☎ 71385

I Want Still Hornyhard Seniors
40ish BI WM seeks older men 55+ up seniors retired- Hot? Horny? Hard? Let me give you oral no hustlers, clean only- All races, prefer cut, good-sized. ☎ 71386

~Hobo In Heat!!~
Homeless guy, English/Welsh French, hairy chest, dark red goatie, brunette otherwise, light skin, freckles, tight smooth round butt, big thighs, chunky, hazel eyes, 12ee, looking for safe, fun, kicks. ☎ 71387

Seeking Latino Or Asian Men
Want to service Latino or Asian men to age 18-35 only, straight, gay or bi discrete. My place. ☎ 71389

Thick, Uncut, Middle Eastern, Latin
Or European top wanted to suck off, 69, watch porn, drink beer and give or get it dole style with GWM, 40, 6', 195# tattoos, 8" cut, HIV-, female condoms? ☎ 71390

Magic Hands
I give long, slow, intense, erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. No formal training. Bi's, straight-s. Very discreet, versatile, and safe. No reciprocation required. ☎ 71391

Top Seeks Bottom Fuck Buddy
Masculine, GWM, 35, 6'2", 260lbs, black/blue, negative, work out, beefy build, 7" 5" cock, seeks aggressive bottom for playfully rough & intense sexual intimacy on an on going basis. ☎ 71397

•New Year Massage•
Start 2002 off with an erotically stimulating full body massage free for lean masculine guys 19-45 by lean masculine WM 43. ☎ 71398

ISO S.Bay/S.V. Area Bear/Daddy
Type, Me: 6'1", 220lbs, grey/bn. Looking for daytime playmate. M-F am's in Sunnyvale/ S. Bay Area. I'm 40yrs, 8", very clean, ub-2 or forget it! ☎ 71399

Tops R Us!
Big-dick total top likes to "get-off" with other top men. Either, kickin back strokin, or working over an eager bottom. Age, race, environment not important. Masculine, in-shape men only. ☎ 71400

Smooth Slender Top Wanted!!
46yo, 6'1", 200lb, bi-WM seeks a very smooth, slender, effemina? Well hung gay male for regular get togethers. You are the top, I am the bottom. ☎ 71430

24 Hour Fitness Buddy Wanted
Middle age male needs gym attendance friend. You be male or female. Let's talk and do exercise. ☎ 71407

Beginner Cocksucker
Seeking one large uncircumcised a/w smooth to lite hairy cock to use to practice my cocksucking fantasies on. Your cock fucking my mouth is so hot! ☎ 71408

Skinny Horny Guys
Enjoy servicing skinny or slim guys only who kick back and then show me their hole for rimming and ass eating. ☎ 71409

Top 9" cut Cock Wants Hot Ass
To fuck- Me 57yrs old Cauc. 6'0", 175lbs drk brn hair brn eyes, glasses, hairy chest-stomach. You Cauc. or Hispanic under 40 smooth bodied and loves to get fucked. ☎ 71410

Senior Seeking Service
Twist dad's nipples suck his cock. It's 7"uncut. What's your like? Thick & cut, let me at it! ☎ 71411

Skintight
GWM, 5'11", 170, lit, fairhaired, forties seeks lean GMMs to fun, workout, bike or play in lycra/spandex gear. ☎ 71428

Horny Asian 4 UR Hot Pleasure
Submissive but aggressive hot horny Asian ready to give you hot satisfying pleasures til you cum all the way. Open to all males, tall White guys A+. ☎ 71429

•Pretty Eyes•
Smooth fun butt seeks secure tall Black-gent-spunk+ dress up. ☎ 71396

•Party Boys 4 Sex•
Me: 26 GWM 6'2", 225lbs. 34w, 50c, 32a brn, blu, solid & attractive. You: smooth Asian, Latin, Black, slim to gym build enjoy sex & partying. ☎ 71431

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 190
Likes giving guys w/average size boners blowjob w/no reciprocation. Can drive to you! ☎ 71432

Looking For A Few Good Men
Hung top 100 lasting imaginative verbal demanding awesome 5'8", 170#, 7.5c. 40's HIV+ wants dedicated bottom. You: HIV+ service oriented willing to learn masculine muscular or in shape A+. ☎ 71433

Nude Male Photography
Photographer in East Bay looking for gay male models in good physical shape for nude, erotic, artistic photos. Come for the fun! ☎ 71434

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg. White, 6'155, 200#. From tapes while servicing. Camcord close up? W/S? ☎ 71435

Hung Guys Wanted! I Am Looking
For guys who have 5+ inches or more to party for fun, or to have the greatest of times. ☎ 71436

Italian Guys
I am seeking Italian guys who are looking for an honest relationship with a good looking guy. Also for fun times. ☎ 71437

I Have Two Hungry Holes 4 You
My expertise: giving oral pleasures non stop until you GWM feel yourself exploding. Are you lean or stocky between 20-45? Am hot Asian with tight ass for you. ☎ 71438

Oral Expert I Am Seeking
Guys who are well hung to service for a long session. We can watch videos and party if you want. Call Me! ☎ 71439

Blk Top Sks Bttm To Plow
38, masculine total top, 6'1", 225lbs stocky build sks total submissive bottom boy, must be clean shaven smooth all over. Let me ride that ass! ☎ 71440

Oral Blk Bottom Seeks Blk Top
You: BM, masculine, verbal, medium build. Kick back for discreet bj. Me: chocolate lover, 40's great mouth. S.F. ☎ 71441

Need To Jack-Off?
Need to get a kick back and jack-off, then call me. We can also watch videos etc. If you are hung a plus "+" ☎ 71442

FETISHES

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, good looking, athletic, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage gags, toys, light SM. Trustworthy, discreet. Novice Ok. SF/East Bay. S 71401

Rimmers
GWM seeks guys who like to rim. Me: 55 5'8" brown hair mustache HIV+. You: GWM 30-50. Clean only. Your place in SF only. Hairy ass A+. ☎ 71412

Mature Masculine Submissive
Seek 40+ dominant inked D/B 80SM. Sub is intelligent experienced. Seeks same. ☎ 71443

Chubby Bottom Pig Bay ISO Tops
GWM, 42, 5'10", 275#, total bottom, HIV-. E. Bay, needs dominant sweaty (strong marmelss- pits, balls, feet, socks) men (age, race, looks, size unimportant) to use me for your pleasure. ☎ 71444

OTHERS

Husky & Stocky Club
Bi weekly social/play gatherings for husky/stocky masculine guys. Saturdays, San Rafael. All inquiries responded to. ☎ 71445

Tony H., Where Are You?
Hoping you'll see this and call Mark P. ASAP. It's been a long time. ☎ 71446

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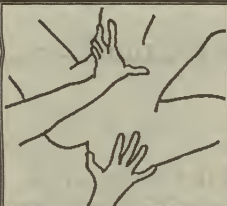
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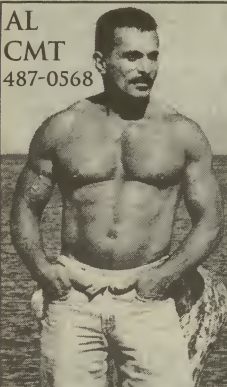
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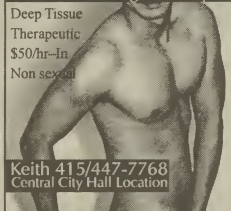
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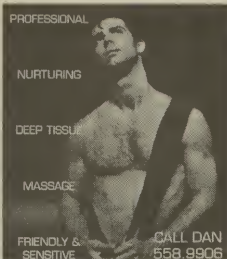
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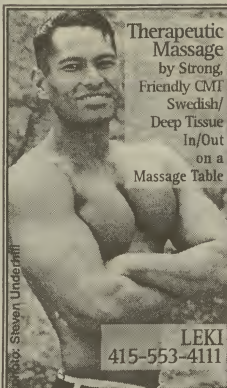
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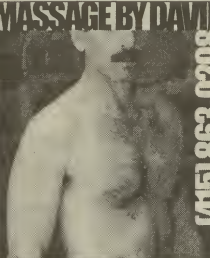
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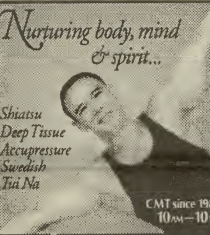
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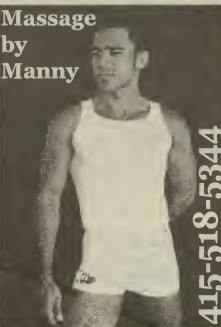
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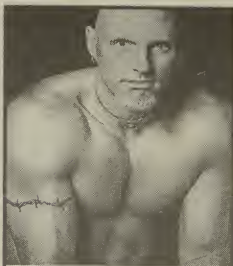
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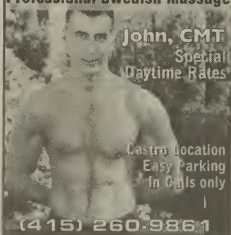
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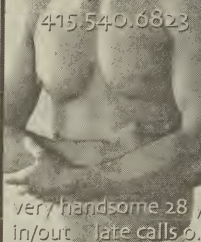
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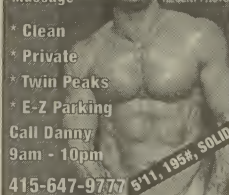
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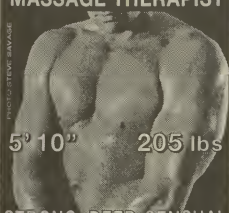
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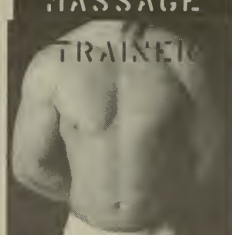
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Boost all your systems
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Eclectic Futon Massage Experience
Massage, Stretching, Body Contact
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\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

Mike, 37, 5'10", 200#, Bl/Blu

Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk

In/Out \$100 (415) 863-8932

Handsome hung Italian 34, 6', 160

CHOKE ON THIS!

Tight lean bod hairy chest/legs
all top masc dominant real 10x7
gentle strength & arousing edge
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Great Legs & Ass, Cute, Boyish & Playful.
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Slender, mysterious stranger

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6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,
thick stache & tool 13ee feet
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27yo Latin top uncut safe

8'5'6" 135# \$100 Franc pg 251 2723

LATIN HUNK

34yo. musc, hung 8", 165#. 5'9",
nice chest. Bud nasty, vers top will
travel (408) 607-7995

•HOT TOP•

Italian 6'2", 200lbs. 35yrs old, thick
fat tool, hung, 9x6. Smooth and mus-
cular. Also available for sensual mas-
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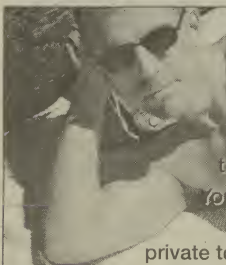
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Versatile, 5'10", 175lbs, muscular,
masculine, friendly, tattoos, very
attractive, passionate, 10cut,
down to earth. In/out Angelo
510-562-8819

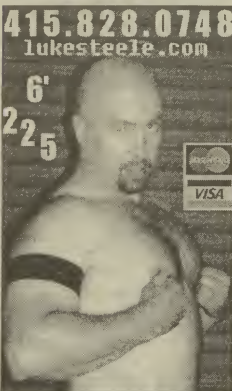
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Handsome good body 5'11", 160 lbs
Sexy \$80/in, 100/out David 297-6568


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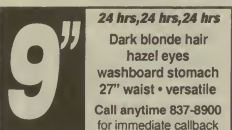
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SEXY-VERY MASCULINE
MILD TO WILD
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9"
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
Dark blonde hair
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washboard stomach
27" waist • versatile
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41 yo goodlooking hairy guy, 6'1" 225# 7" uncult. See photo ad (Dom. Leatherman) Bondage-SM, Have/space Scott (415) 414-1132 pg# In/out

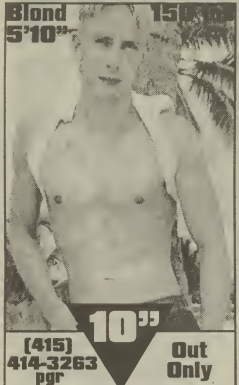
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Versatile, well hung, handsome travel available. 415 789 8094



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155#
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pg#
10"
Out Only



NEW AD
Hot hung masculine guy visiting S.F. for a short time. Very friendly, very relaxed available in/out 24/7
call Ricardo. 415 238 0588

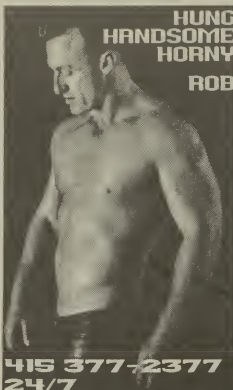
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LTHR SEXY DAD
UNCUT 8'- 5'9"- 165#- HD5M
Hairy+buzzd * w/go-t * very gd yng looking French Mediter.
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Sexy, masc, well built. Big balls beautiful tool. Muscular legs and butt. Call Jay 948-8131



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ROB
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8" cut Bl/Blu 5'11" 155lbs vers
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Visiting Area: Hunky Real man
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Muscular 6'4", 238lbs. See web: <http://community.webtv.net/nvbuck>
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6'2" 200lbs 9x6"
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Call 24/7 (650) 873-1461 -Eric
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6'225# very handsome 34/yo stud w/
THICK MUSCLES
Great thighs/calves & big manly muscle butt. Awesome hairy chest 19" arms; also avail. foot fetish
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Domint*oral/top*kicks/back for service
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33yo 5'5" 130# 8.5x6"
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Light to heavy sensual S/M
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Hot Latino boy Eric 24yo 5'7"
135lbs good looking 305-6856

Handsome muscular hung Italian
wants to play with in shape guys
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14 EEE FOOT FETISH
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19yr, 195#, blnd/blu 4 great time
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9x5 Package Delivered
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Lean muscular hung leathertop 48
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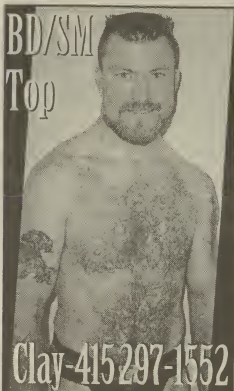
33 5'8" 150# furry toned tattooed
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11 1/2 inch escort
5'10"/170lbs/34yrs 510 684 6196/Out
35yr passive smooth lasting bottom
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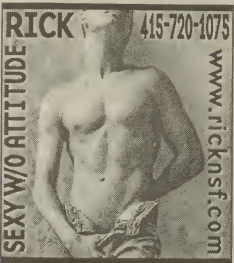
MODEL/ESCORTS

BD/SM Top



Clay-415-297-1552

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SEXY W/O ATTITUDE

SMOOTH LATINO

Hot sexy xmitry muscle boy
25yo 5'6", 140lbs gr8 ass, chest
6.5" c Pager. 415-258-7086 Josh

BORN TO SERVE MEN

HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
Ale, 415-242-4230, in/out

TOTAL TOP, HUNG 8.5X6,
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slim muscular 8x6 cut
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21yo Great body 5'8", 140lbs in/out
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Italian stud 6", 175lbs, 8", sexy,
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Masculine, discreet, handsome
9" hung, 5'10", athletic, muscular top,
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5'10", 175#, hung and uncut 23YO BRAZILIAN

I'm Ricardo, a friendly sexy
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very passionate. Masculine and
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Intelligent and discreet.
Visit my web site for pictures
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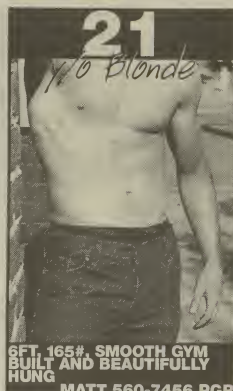
HORNY TOP LATINO

Great body 5'10", 150lbs top.
In/out Damien (415) 378-6735

****24HOURS****

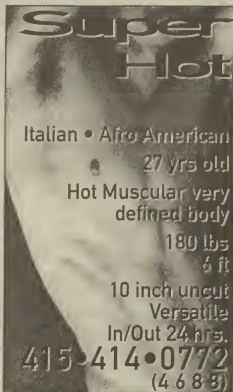
~415-303-0252~

21
No Blonde



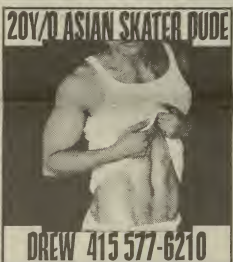
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BUILT AND BEAUTIFULLY
HUNG**
MATT 560-7456 PGR

Super Hot



Italian • Afro American
27 yrs old
Hot Muscular very
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10 inch uncut
Versatile
In/Out 24 hrs.
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South Bay hot Latino bottom 40 years
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CONFIDENT TOP**

Handsome, Lean, Muscular
Defined, Hot Hairy Chest
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***VERSATILE HUNG DUDE**

*Handsome*Masculine*Hung*Dude*

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5'11" 175# br/gr mid 30's 8" cut
Days ok-Soma-\$75/in Randy 309-1032

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22, 5'10", 130, tan, in shape + vers
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Out calls only!

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26, 5'6", 135#, lean, solid
great tool. Hot and juicy.
Patrick 415-846-2824 SF in/out

Dominant Leatherman

41yo,
6'1", 220#,
Brown Hair,
flat top,
Blue Eyes,
mustache,
7" Uncut.

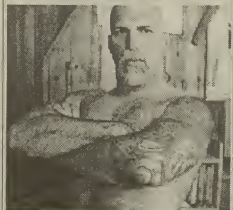
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Have equipment and playspace.

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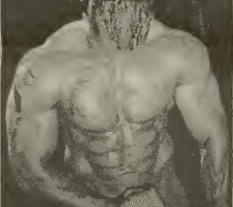
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5'8", 155# blk/brn 32w smooth
muscular build Robert 415 540 2284

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Very attractive 23yo 5'10", 150#s
Friendly, masculine, passionate
w/big tool in & out
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9x6 uncut beauty. Handsome 43yo
6'3", 165# smooth gymbody. 80in
Alex 643-7770

CUTE WHITE GUY 4 GAM

Massage and Escort
New to SF 35, 5'8", 140, 8" c
Eden 415-238-0710 pics online

Sexy White guy, 30yrs, redhead

ENJOY THE RIDE

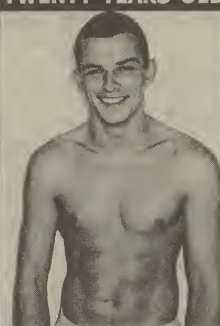
Really pretty butt, killer legs.
Matt 605-0469 I spread wide

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6'1"
240#**

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!BLACK ADONIS!

24 Black & Native American cutie!
Hot top, model looks & no attitude
gorgeous tool 9" thick! cut! hard!
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top, suave, smooth 415-251-0261

Blond stripper, kinky top-all

leather scenes Marc 415-338-4649

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Swiss- Irish American. Blind/blue

5'8". 155#. 32yrs., vers. btm.

sexy, masc., well built, discreet.

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uncut 415-586-1430 Michael

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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.

New in town from
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MAKE YOU SWEAT

Strong, muscular, handsome, top
drk hairy chest, big piece of meat
and know how to use it. \$200
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**HOT YOUNG
HUNG & FUN**

TYLER 415 336-8169 CELL

JEFF RYAN

washboard abs
cut chest
big arms
friendly
respectful
educated

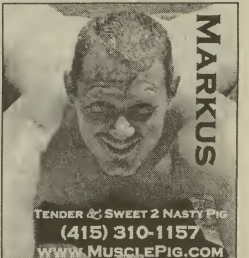
415-317-0527

excellent top

actual 8"

5'10, 160#

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 Me: Bill from Chicago. You: In DC for
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 used to live there and we hit it off-I
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Redtiechicago@aol.com
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E11

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